

THE TIMES

Nine prepare to back US action against Iran

ine EEC members are likely to work out today of a plan to support President's sanctions against Iran. The plan calls fordiomatic action and an end to oil purchases first place. If this fails to release the can hostages from their student captors, nics sanctions would follow.

Two-stage plan by Lord Carrington

sheel Hornby
ing, April 21
C was moving towards
tonight on a British
for a two-stage re-
President Carter's or
European action to American trade sanc-
Iran. The proposal, which is
of Lord Carrington's foreign Secretary, the
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produce any result, Nine proceed to com-
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Carrington initiative
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Emilio Colom-
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length of time the
imposition of trade sanctions.



Graveyard meeting: Mrs Barbara Timm yesterday met Iranian women at the Beheshti-e-Zehra cemetery in Tehran where Iranians who were killed in the revolution are buried. She was taken there by students before being reunited with her son, Marine sergeant Kevin Hermening who, at 20, is the youngest of the hostages being held in the American embassy.

She spent about six hours in the embassy compound and although her husband, Sergeant Hermening's stepfather, was also allowed in, it was not immediately clear if he also met him. The students occupying the embassy had said only Mrs Timm would be allowed to do so.

The reunion took place after President Bani-Sadr made a public plea for the reunion to take place. Students contacted the couple from Oak Creek, Wisconsin, who arrived in Iran on Saturday in defiance of a ban by President Carter.

Sergeant Hermening was brought to a block of flats forming the northern wall of the compound, accompanied by two students. Then Mrs Timm was taken in, accompanied by two girls wearing the traditional Iranian black veil. Students said later that she spent only an hour with her son.

Mr and Mrs Timm are the first parents of a hostage to visit Iran since the embassy was stormed last November. They were

granted 15-day visas by the Iranian embassy in Paris. Their arrival comes after a visit last week by Red Cross officials who saw all the hostages. Another American who has defied the Washington ban on travel to Iran is Mr Dick Gregory, the comedian, who arrived this week. It is not known whether he will be meeting the students or their hostages during his stay.

Mrs Louise Kennedy, wife of one of the hostages, is calling on Mrs Thatcher on Thursday to ask for the Prime Minister's support in helping secure the release of the hostages. Mrs Kennedy will be with three other women who have relatives among the hostages.

Student riots shake base of Khomeini rule

From Tooy Allaway

Ayatollah Khomeini tonight demanded that leftist groups stop resisting an "Islamic purge" in the universities.

After day of fierce fighting around the central Tehran, university students, the Ayatollah said: "If some groups continue their resistance I will pronounce my last word [on the subject]. I hope the universities will be cleared of all kinds of connection with the West or East."

The Ayatollah accused the leftists of serving the interests of the West in a speech delivered to a group of Islamic students, who had staged a protest march through the city to his home.

At Tehran, university leftist ranks appeared to be holding firm after his message had been broadcast by the state radio. Fresh violence was reported in colleges in the southern city of Shiraz today and reports said

there were many injured. Tonight is the deadline for a Revolutionary Council order that all groups must remove their offices from universities and higher education complexes. But the fighting at Tehran university today went much beyond that, bringing into question the future of Iran's Government.

After two days of skirmishes today's fighting began in earnest at lunchtime with an attack by street gangs of Muslim *Hesballah*, members of the so-called Party of God, on the headquarters of the Pishgam (vanguard) leftist student movement in a University building across the street from the main campus.

The attack was repelled by leftist sympathizers staying in the street outside. The leftist youths then launched a counter-attack which succeeded in taking over the entire university campus.

Pishgam supporters formed a human chain around their headquarters with an opening where high metal fencing along the university wall had been torn down.

From here leftist youths re-stocked themselves with the rocks that formed the main battle weapon. In the afternoon the *Hesballah* sacked the main university gate. Revolutionary Guards, their cover of impartiality stripped, fired tear gas and volleys of machinegun fire in the air as cover.

A constant stream of wounded, some with glaring gashes in their heads, were being helped inside. The weapons range from large sticks and wooden clubs to metal spikes and bayonets.

In the main street I witnessed a typical example of the violence that has marked the fighting. *Hesballah* shouting "Death to the Communists" appeared to have grabbed hold of a leftist sympathizer. The man was beaten about the face and body by several of the attackers, then passed on to Revolutionary Guards, who kneed him in the groin, then smashed his face against the side of a jeep before dropping him unconscious.

The involvement of the Revolutionary Guards in this manner is an undoubted embarrassment to President Abolhassan Ban-Sadr.

The President is said by informed sources to be in far more serious straits. He has tried to avoid the conflict at Tehran university. But he is said to have explained to his aides that he is locked in a losing battle with Ayatollah Muhsen Beheshti, leader of the Islamic Republic Party.

The violence and the takeover of campus after campus have shown the Revolutionary Guards as an almost powerless body.

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BL stewards defeated as 14,000 go back

By Clifford Webb

Midlands Industrial

Correspondent

Militant shop stewards at British Leyland suffered another crushing defeat yesterday when mass meetings of workers rejected their recommendations to stay on strike and voted overwhelmingly to return to work. By this morning nearly 14,000 of the 18,400 strikers will be back on duty.

The sudden collapse came after the Transport and General Workers' union decided to withdraw official backing for the draft peace terms with BL. It shows that the union's intervention on April 11 was the deciding factor in the strike's rapid worsening last week.

The great majority of these joining the strike after the first three days were clearly only displaying their loyalty to union policy.

But the transport union is still smarting under what many of its officials and members consider to be the desertion of other unions in the face of determined action by Sir Michael Edwards, the BL chairman.

That resentment has been increased by the statements of Mr Mostyn Evans, TGWU general secretary, that his union would still support any member who rejected last Wednesday's peace settlement, which was drawn up by 11 manual unions and the management.

Sixty transport union conveners and senior stewards from BL factories met at the union's Midland headquarters in West Bromwich yesterday under the chairmanship of Mr Brian Mathers, the regional secretary. Given the circumstances of Private Griffin's death, it was a relatively mild ceremony. A colleague of the dead man from the Irish Army's First Field Engineer Company read one of St Paul's epistles about forgiveness, and a priest celebrating Mass asked the conveners to pray for the soldiers serving the cause of peace in Lebanon. He added slowly: "Lord help them and strengthen their great resolution" although given the tragic United Nations mandate there such resolutions must be difficult to define.

St Joseph's is surrounded by little houses and there are thatched cottages on the road to the cemetery above the Atlantic. It seemed not just 3,000 miles but a world away from the stony hills around the village of Al-Tiri in southern Lebanon, where Private Griffin was shot in the head by a Lebanese Christian militiaman two weeks ago. Only an additional prayer—for the souls of the two Irish soldiers murdered in Lebanon on Friday—prompted some of the older men to shake their heads.

If the Irish soldiers at the church entrance were angry at what had happened, they were loath to voice their feelings in public, although one young officer told a colleague that he hoped the Israelis had not been "insensitive enough to send a such wreath". Indeed, there was no such wreath.

Mr Griffin, bespectacled with a black veil over her face, Continued on page 8, col 6

Real meaning of the Biffen 'heresy', page 21



Irish soldiers bearing the body of their comrade.

Lebanon war comes home to Ireland

From Robert Fisk

Middle East Correspondent

Galway, April 21

They placed Private Stephen Griffin's pale blue United Nations beret on top of his coffin, and it lay there in the pale sunshine outside St Joseph's Church this morning, the only visible reminder that the war in Lebanon could have its international repercussions even in the far west of Ireland.

The Irish Army had performed its own last rites, of course, bearing the dead man's body through the streets of Galway on a gun carriage and creating that dignified but somber departure that all armies choose for their soldiers.

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Mr Griffin, bespectacled with a black veil over her face, Continued on page 8, col 6

President Tito 'in imminent danger'

Belgrade, April 21.—Messages expressing profound anxiety are pouring into Ljubljana hospital after the latest, and most ominous, bulletin on President Tito's condition.

The bulletin reports that the 87-year-old President's ailments are not responding to treatment and his life is in imminent danger.

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Bread prices to rise next week

Bread prices will rise next week by 2½p for a large white loaf and 1½p for a small loaf. Manufacturers blamed the increase on higher flour prices. The rise is the first this year

Record sales and profit by Ford

Record sales and profit figures were announced by Ford, showing that the company remains the only highly profitable mass car manufacturer in Britain. Profits for 1979 soared by 60 per cent to £319m, the first time Ford has topped the £300m mark and reflecting record vehicle sales of 834,000 compared with a previous peak of 712,000 units. Lost production through industrial disputes dropped to only 1,000 working days in 1979 against an average of 31,000 days during the four years to 1978.

Right-wing victory may mean changes in AUEW

Control of the rank and file policy-making national committee of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers has been recaptured by the right-wing faction. That could lead to controversial changes being forced through when the union's rules revision committee holds its five-yearly meeting next month

Zimbabwe jail amnesty

About 9,000 prisoners are to be released from Zimbabwe jails as part of an amnesty to mark independence. Among those being freed are all people convicted of stock theft. Mr Mugabe, the Prime Minister, however, condemned recent acts of violence that had marred last week's independence celebration

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Journalists quit Press Council

The National Union of Journalists decided at its annual conference to withdraw from the Press Council, the body it set up to deal with complaints against newspapers by the public

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U.S. Soviet expansion

HOME NEWS

Right wing recovers control of AUEW policy making and may force controversial changes

From Donald Macintyre
Labour Reporter
Blackpool

The right-wing faction of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers has recaptured control of the union's national committee by 29 votes to 23 to win all five seats on the key standing orders committee.

That became clear yesterday when right wingers defeated the alliance of Labour left wingers and communists by 29 votes to 23 to win all five seats on the key standing orders committee.

By virtue of the rigid, two-party system prevailing in the party, the moderate majority of 6 is likely to be repeated when the rank and file committee consider all the main issues before them, including wages, and constitutional questions facing the Labour Party.

The shift to the right also increases the confidence of the executive, which is already entirely in moderate hands, that it will be able to force through controversial changes when the 52 delegates reconstitute themselves next month as the rule revision committee, which holds its five-yearly meeting in closed session next month.

Although there has been a rightward trend in the national committee over the past five years, that was checked last year when the committee tied 26-26 throughout its annual meeting and, when recalled to discuss wages, narrowly backed

a left-wing resolution calling for industrial action in support of the annual claim.

This year, however, the executive can expect to defeat militant resolutions seeking to re-elect the negotiators to a wages figure and defeat attempts to reopen the working hours clause in the agreement which followed last year's national engineering dispute; that gave a 39-hour week from November 1981, but precluded further discussion on hours before 1983.

Mr Terence Duffy, the union's president, gave a warning yesterday that, on the broader front: "I fear there is more industrial strife to come if this Government continues on its present course."

The present administration was "the most doctrinaire and reactionary since the 1930s".

Unemployment, resulting directly from the Government's economic policies was, Mr Duffy said, "undoubtedly one of the major causes of vandalism and unrest among the youth of our nation".

Mr Duffy, referring to both economic policies and the Employment Bill, told reporters later: "The hawks in the Government are looking for a confrontation with the trade unions. They feel that the electorate will be more satisfied if they go into open conflict with us, but they are sadly misled."

Among the proposals for change of rules are the experimental introduction of appoin-

ted full-time branch secretaries in some areas and for the Labour Party and TUC delegations to be elected by an expanded national committee instead of by branch ballot, as at present.

The latter change is contingent on planned mergers between the union's overwhelmingly dominant engineering section, the AUEW construction and foundry sections and the National Union of Sheet Metal Workers, Coppersmiths and Heating and Domestic Engineers.

The leadership is still hoping that balloting of the three smaller unions will take place in time to effect a transfer of engagements before July 1 to coincide with the union's sixtieth anniversary.

But because of the complexity of discussions on the transfer and on its impact on the left-wing Technical, Administrative and Supervisory Section of the AUEW, which have involved lawyers and the official certification officer, Mr John Edwards, a delay seems certain.

In his presidential address yesterday Mr Duffy emphasized the union's desire to merge with other skilled engineering unions and said that when plans were completed the union hoped to reopen merger talks with the Electrical, Electronic, Telecommunication and Plumb-



Two children killed: Helpers attending to children outside Moston Brook High School, Manchester, yesterday, after a lorry was in collision with a school bus. Two children were killed, 15 injured and five women canteen assistants were taken to hospital suffering from shock. Police said that eight of the

injured children were detained in hospital. A witness said the lorry swerved and hit railings outside the school after the crash. The children had just got off the school bus when the accident occurred. A fleet of ambulances arrived at the scene. Firemen were called to free the injured from the

wreckage. The dead children were Lee Johnson, aged 13, of Lime Grove, Old Trafford, and Peter Claypole, aged 12, of Pinehurst Road, Miles Platting. Peter's twin brother, Mark, was critically ill in hospital. Lee's father, Mr Ronald Johnson, is catering manager at the Old Trafford cricket ground.

Broken axle derailed 100 mph train

By Michael Baily
Transport Correspondent

A broken axle caused the 100 mph derailment of the Advanced Passenger Train near Carnforth, Lancashire, last week.

But it is too early to say what caused the axle failure, and to what extent the incident will delay entry of the train into passenger service between London and Glasgow scheduled for June.

Two wheels left the track when the tubular axle between them failed, it has been established, but whether that failure was caused by a defective component, or human error in maintenance, has yet to be established by British Rail's research engineers at Derby.

The possibility of a design fault, which would be a serious setback at this late stage of development of the vehicle, remains.

Kevin Dooley, an IRA bomber, died in the blast. A Nigerian who had been resident in Ulster for many years,

Sinn Fein ordered to quit house

From Christopher Thomas
Belfast

The High Court in Belfast yesterday granted an order to the housing executive for the recovery of a derelict house in Falls Road used by the Provisional Sinn Fein.

Sinn Fein was not represented at the hearing. It has 10 days to appeal but clearly has no intention of doing so.

The order for the recovery of the premises, which have been occupied by Sinn Fein for six years, was given on the ground that the house is in a redeveloped area. The attempt to evict the group seems likely within a matter of weeks.

Murder charge: Patrick Joseph Flynn, of West Belfast, will appear in Belfast Magistrates' Court today charged with murder as a result of a bomb explosion on a train at Dumbury near the city on January 17.

Mr Charles said the British gas and electricity boards had a remit confined to Britain. They were not keen to take on the additional responsibility of Ulster; but as part of the United Kingdom, Northern Ireland expected to share the benefits.

He added: "The fact that

Northern Ireland has been treated as though it were also killed.

The IRA said the bomb went off prematurely.

It was launching a report

which said the cross-border

electricity connector between Ulster and the Irish Republic could save the electricity authorities in Northern Ireland nearly £500 a year.

The interconnector was blown up by the Provisional IRA five years ago. In a statement issued in response to a new agreement by the Irish and British governments to re-establish the link, which would allow the republic to purchase much needed electricity, the Provisons said the British Army would need a battalion to prevent the pylons being blown up.

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Journalists withdraw from Press Council

By Our Labour Staff

The National Union of Journalists yesterday decided to withdraw from the Press Council, the body which helped to set up to deal with complaints made against journalists by the public.

The annual delegate meeting at Portrush, Co Antrim, by 122 votes to 92 to withdraw "with forthwith" the union's representatives on the council.

The decision was taken immediately by a threat group of Fleet Street journalists to deny the union an seek representation on the council.

Mr David Ross, a member of the union's National Executive, and chairman of the Journalists' Council, said last night that he believed Fleet Street journalists proposed to withdraw from the council.

"In this way we shall be effectively overturning a decision made by an unrepresentative annual delegation from which many of most of members were excluded by a process motion," Mr Ross said.

Mr Ross was referring to the fact that 49 branches of union were barred from a separate country was because their members' subscriptions are less than 10 per cent of branches' total subscription base.

Mr Ross said that he believed the Press Council would "understand" to approach by the Fleet Street journalists.

A move by London Central branch, which represents Fleet Street to put off the decision to draw for a year was defeated.

Delegates proposing

drawn acknowledged the

of redress against dist reporting, but argued the would be better ban through an extension of union's code of conduct on such bodies as Campaign for Press Freed

There was also unanimous support at the conference an emergency motion pled

resistance to any moves

in political or parties to

in policy in the coverage of year's Olympic Games British journalists".

Steel unions plead for a fresh start

From Our Labour Editor

Perth

The Government has been asked to shelve British Steel Corporation plans to cut steel-making capacity and make 50,000 employees redundant so that a new chairman for the industry can make a fresh start in the aftermath of the long and bitter strike.

The plea was sent last night to Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Industry, by leaders of the two main unions involved in the dispute, the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation and the National Union of Blast Furnacemen. They also called for an inquiry into the management of state steel.

Mr William Sir, general secretary of the ISTC said: "We want a moratorium of at least a year in which we can plan together. If that happens it will be a tremendous new boost for the chairman.

"It will cost him nothing; but he will get our cooperation and goodwill."

The letter, sent by hand to Sir Keith, complains that the unions have not been consulted about the Government's choice of a new chairman of British Steel, widely rumoured to be Mr Ian MacGregor, a Scottish industrialist and a former president of AMAX, the United States metals firm. Sir Charles Vilitter, the present chairman of BSC, retires in September.

The letter, signed by Mr Sir, and Mr Hector Smith, the blastfurnacemen's leader, calls for an inquiry into the overall management of British Steel.

"We are making this request because of the deteriorating position of the steel industry under the present style of management."

500,000 civil servants called out on May 14

From Paul Routledge

Perth

More than 500,000 white-collar civil servants are being urged to follow the advice of the TUC and take a day off on May 14 in protest against government policies.

The call for politically inspired disruption will go out today from six unions after secret joint talks aimed at securing the widest backing for the TUC's day of action.

An agreed form of words says: "Our members are urged to register a protest about government policies in relation to the Civil Service and general public sector policies by not attending for work on May 14. This will be considered as official industrial action by each union."

The unions involved are: the Civil and Public Services Association, the Society of Civil and Public Servants, the Inland Revenue Staff Federation, the Institution of Professional Civil Servants, and the Association of Government Supervisors and Radio Operators.

Mr Campbell Christie, deputy general secretary of the Society of Civil and Public Servants, said last night that civil servants had been particularly badly affected by government job cuts and by the system of cash limits which interfered with pay bargaining.

"It is important therefore that all civil servants support the call for May 14 to ensure a massive protest," he said.

The unions' announcement comes on the eve of a review of the preparations for the day of action by the TUC General

Council, almost certainly the last before May 14.

Union leaders tomorrow will assess responses to the call for widespread industrial action in protest at government policies.

Since the call went out several important unions have publicly pledged support. There will be no trains on May 14 and bus services are also expected to be suspended. National newspapers will not appear that day.

The level of trade union hostility to the Government was re-emphasized yesterday at the opening of the Scottish Trades Union Congress in Perth. Mr William Duggan, of the Boiler-makers Society, said in his presidential address: "There can seldom have been a government as pigheaded as this one."

"But this Government is not just attacking our manufacturing industry. The so-called Employment Bill represents the most serious attack on fundamental trade union rights since the last Tory Government tried to introduce its Industrial Relations Act.

Protest to minister: Leaders of the nine civil service unions are meeting Mr Paul Channon, Minister of State at the Civil Service Department, today to protest at not being consulted over the further cuts in manpower that they believe are being planned.

The unions believe that the Government is going to propose cuts in manpower of about 3 per cent over two or three years, which would be the equivalent of up to 20,000 jobs. That reduction would be in addition to the 30,000 job losses announced last December, and the reduction of 20,000 that is part of the annual pay deal now being negotiated.

Companies book up hotels for staff

By David Nicholson-Lord

Hotel space in central London on the TUC's planned "day of action" on May 14 is rapidly being taken up by companies seeking to ensure that senior staff can get to work despite the travelling difficulties expected.

Hotel booking agencies yesterday confirmed a rise in reservations for May 13 and 14, the eve and night of the day of action, while the London Tourist Board issued a warning that advance reservations were needed for anyone planning to stay in London that week. One booking agency has been forced to arrange coaches to take staff to offices, because the nearest hotels are fully booked.

According to Express-o-tel, a hotel booking agency, more than a third of about 120 hotels in

three-star categories and above in London are fully booked for the two nights, as against the one or two that would normally now be full more than three weeks in advance.

The agency added: "There has been a tremendous increase in advance bookings over the past 10 days. For some time there appeared to be doubt about whether it was happening but now, that it looks as though it is definitely on, reservations are getting into full swing."

HBI-Hotel, another booking agency, said that the response by companies had been light compared with previous rail strikes. The agency said that although only a small proportion of its corporate customers had made

block bookings for 40 to 50 staff, City-based companies had been the most active and hotels in and near the City were booked up.

Of half a dozen hotels of three stars and above telephoned at random yesterday, only one had rooms available for May 14, although May 13 was easier. Examples included the Strand Palace Hotel, full up for the past week, the Russell Hotel, full for three weeks, and the Tower Hotel, which had been fully booked for a fortnight.

The London Tourist Board said that May was normally a tight month for accommodation in London, because the start of the tourist season overlapped with the end of the business conference season.

"We now know that they

mean a virtual end to all new council building during the next year.

His claims about the financial advantages of the council

house sales have been dis

proved and disproved by one of the experts he quoted in evidence.

Mr Heseltine's information is criticized

Continued from page 1

only management could bring it home to them.

"I cannot bring it home to them," she declared.

"Ministers cannot. Civil ser-

vants cannot."

You can; you are in touch

with the work force, say in day

with the environment, said at Tipton last night.

Mr Rattersley accused Mr

Heseltine of "wily and persistently providing Parliament

and public with misleading in-

formation about his housing poli-

cies."

The minister presented the

Government's proposals for

council house building to the

Commons in February in a way

that made it impossible to judge

their real consequence, he said.

"We now know that they

mean a virtual end to all new

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The facts speak for themselves.

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|---------------------------------|--|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
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| CORTINA 1.6 L or similar | PER DAY + PER MILE £9.25 + 9½p WEEKLY UNLIMITED: £104.00 | £10.00 + 10p £120.00 | £9.90 + 11p £120.00 | £10.00 + 10p £115.50 |
| CORTINA ESTATE 1.6 L or similar | PER DAY + PER MILE £12.00 + 12p WEEKLY UNLIMITED: £129.75 | £13.00 + 13p £150.00 | £12.90 + 14p £150.00 | £13.00 + 12p £140.00 |

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SWAN NATIONAL



HOME NEWS

Racial discord seen by TUC as a reason for banning a march

By Paul Routledge
Labour Editor

Trade union leaders are to urge the Home Secretary to amend the Race Relations Act so that marches "likely to stir up racial hatred or intolerance" could be banned.

The proposal is made in a draft memorandum of evidence to Mr Whitelaw on public order and related issues to be considered by the TUC general council tomorrow.

The TUC argues: "A fundamental distinction exists between the banning of processions likely to foment racial discord and the banning of other marches under the 1976 Public Order Act. Bans against racialist marches should be implemented through laws on racial discrimination and not through public order legislation."

The Race Relations Act prohibits the publication or distribution of written matter or the use of words in public which are likely to incite racial hatred; but it contains no powers to restrict or ban racialist marches nor any power of arrest, and prosecutions under it require the consent of the Attorney General.

The TUC points out that the Public Order Act was intended to deal with the activities of fascist organizations, including the followers of Oswald Mosley, which were disrupting public order.

Accordingly, the unions advised the Home Secretary to issue guidance to police commissioners and chief constables that bans under section 3 of the 1976 Act "should be targeted against organizations which set out to provoke violence or to intimidate local communities."

The TUC also proposes that Mr Whitelaw should consider introducing a provision under the Race Relations Act allowing the police or local authorities, acting in consultation with each other and with the permis-

sion of the Home Secretary, to ban processions likely to stir up racial hatred.

Trade unionists have tried unsuccessfully over the past few years to get the Government to ban "provocative marches" by the National Front and other racialist organizations which were designed to antagonize racial minorities and to incite racial hatred and prejudice.

However, what has occurred in practice is that blanket bans have been issued (for example, Ilford and Leeds 1978) which have restricted all political marches including those against the National Front, or the police have decided not to issue powers in section 24 of the Northern Ireland (Emergency Provisions) Act 1973.

Turning to political activity governed by the Representation of the People Act 1949, the TUC complains that the provision allowing schools to be hired for public meetings has been abused by the National Front, which held election meetings in schools in "sensitive racial areas" including Southall, but refused to allow the public to enter.

The TUC therefore proposes that the Home Secretary should issue guidance to the police concerning the policing of election meetings "so that public meetings are indeed 'public'" and suggests that the phrase "public meeting" in the 1949 Act should be statutorily defined so that any person may attend without restriction on entrance by ticket, invitation or any other means.

Union leaders are concerned about the "persistent efforts of racialist groups to stir up racial discord." The TUC insists it is aware of the need to ensure freedom of speech, for which trade unions have fought, "but racialist groups cannot be allowed to spread their pernicious doctrines and to create tension and fear among black and white citizens alike".

Hostels fire safety grant raised from £500 to £5,000

By a Staff Reporter

The Government is to increase from £500 to £5,000 the maximum amount of grant to be made available under the Housing Bill to hostels for fire-stopping fire precautions.

The move comes after the fire at the Missionaries of Charity hostel, Kilburn, last month in which nine women died.

The £500 grant limit was only introduced into the Bill after pressure from groups representing the homeless. Since then there has been strong criticism from the C campaign for Single Homeless People, for the grant to be increased.

The report of Brent Council's inquiry into the fire also urged that the amount of grant should bear "some resemblance to the cost of the works".

The move was announced by Geoffrey Finsberg, parlia-

tary under secretary of state at the Department of the Environment, in a written reply to Mr Charles Irving, Conservative MP for Cheltenham.

The percentage rate at which the grant will be paid will not, however, be decided until the Bill becomes law later this year.

Mr Finsberg said he hoped the change would give an incentive to landlords to provide fire escapes and would encourage housing authorities to use their statutory powers.

The announcement was welcomed by the campaign but the charity said that the percentage contribution the grant made towards the cost of the works would have to be set at the upper limit, if it was to provide a real incentive to improve fire precautions. The percentage rate payable for house renovation grants ranges from 50 to 75 per cent.

Security companies show how to make a thief wish he had not bothered to call

By Stewart Toulson
Crime Reporter

Working on the premise that if you cannot always stop a thief you can at least make him wish he had not bothered, the security industry yesterday unleashed a cacophony of screams, wails, and shrieks at Olympia, in London, to demonstrate the latest intruder alarms and sirens.

On the opening day of the International Fire, Security, and Safety Exhibition and Conference, the exhibition centre sounded like an equatorial rain forest. Four hundred and fifty exhibitors, the largest entry in the exhibition's eight years, were on hand to offer items such as armoured-plated helicopter seats and veterinary aid oxygen kits for horses.

A 17-year-old Royal Horse Artillery charger was on hand to demonstrate the effectiveness of the latter item. One company was exhibiting an example of the Army's

"wheelbarrow", the robot developed for dismantling bombs in Northern Ireland. It says something about how long the province's troubles have gone on that the apparatus has reached a Mark VII version.

There were also other examples of the security industry's response to the violent side of crime. The latest bomb disposal suit includes a "trauma-attenuation pack" to give protection against bullets. A clipboard designed with the help of British police forces doubles as an armoured shield.

Another company offers a range of bullet-proof body armour, including the executive style, a slightly bulky waistcoat.

To cope with electronic assailants, one exhibitor offers a range of gadgets claimed to protect the purchaser against bugging and telephone tapping. For £12,000 the company has available two briefcases of equipment capable of first detecting hidden microphones

Union rights 'threatened' by McNee proposals

By Peter Evans
Home Affairs Correspondent

New powers sought by police organizations constituted the serious threat on customary civil liberties in Britain, the TUC told MPs yesterday.

It's written evidence to the Select Committee on Home Affairs described as "dangerous" the stated intentions of Sir David McNee, the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, concerning picketing.

The TUC quotes a call by police organizations for powers for senior police officers to disperse assemblies of three or more people similar to those powers in section 24 of the Northern Ireland (Emergency Provisions) Act 1973.

Sir David had said in evidence "that the proposed new powers to deal with assemblies would include industrial picketing. These powers would not apply to industrial picketing of a lawful nature but logically any form of assembly not protected by trade disputes (including strikes) should be controlled in the same way as other forms of the same demonstration and they would give the police far greater powers in dealing with massed picketing such as Grunwick."

The TUC said that three important conclusions could be drawn from that statement.

First, he clearly stated that in his opinion the present trade union immunities, which were civil immunities, limited the ambit of the criminal law and the powers of the police in trade disputes.

Second, it followed that if and when the existing immunities were sharply curtailed by the Employment Bill, the Commissioner considered that the police powers would be correspondingly sharply increased in industrial disputes.

Third, the commission was pressing for new police powers to deal with assemblies and demonstrations.

The TUC added: "Although the Association of Chief Police Officers has recently stated to the Home Secretary that further police powers are not necessary, it is understandable that the reason for this statement is the reason that the proposed reductions in civil immunities will sharply reduce the extent of lawful picketing and therefore increase the discretion of police officers to control industrial picketing."

The TUC acknowledged that the police often had extremely difficult tasks to perform.

Mr Alan Sapper, general secretary of the Association of Cinematograph, Television and Allied Technicians, told the committee: "If police are used as a confrontational force—this has happened with the special patrol group and police have broken up peaceful assemblies of people in a brutal manner—then the atmosphere worsens considerably."

"When police are occupying the role of peaceful policing I do not think they endanger civil liberties. If thousands of police are used to ensure their presence is known then that often causes action they are there to see does not happen."

The announcement was welcomed by the campaign but the charity said that the percentage contribution the grant made towards the cost of the works would have to be set at the upper limit, if it was to provide a real incentive to improve fire precautions. The percentage rate payable for house renovation grants ranges from 50 to 75 per cent.

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HOME NEWS

More consultant posts needed to provide better prospects for junior doctors, Mr Jenkin says

anabel Ferriman
Services Correspondent
pitals should have more
ants and fewer junior
s to improve a better
prospects for staff, Mr
k Jenkin, Secretary of
for Social Services, said
day.

Jenkin said in an exclusive interview with *The Times*, he did not think that medical schools were too many doctors as claimed by the British Medical Association earlier this year. He thought the expansion of 4,500 by 1990 was right on target.

The number of doctors coming overseas was likely to be because countries like the US were trying to keep their graduates and soon would not be the "yawn-

ing gap" in the health service for junior doctors that there used to be, but the Government did not intend to introduce work permits for overseas doctors as requested by the BMA.

The structure of the National Health Service would have to change if fewer graduates were coming from overseas, taking junior doctor posts and returning before applying to become consultants. There would have to be more consultant posts created to fill the needs of British junior doctors.

"There is a need to alter the structure of the profession to have more consultants and fewer juniors so that there are better prospects for those who reach the senior registrar level," he said.

"This is a matter very much

for the profession itself to consider. It is a question of what the client is right for.

Although creating more consultant posts would involve some extra expenditure, doctors' salaries was only a small proportion of the total spending on the health service and senior registrars now earned more than consultants with overtime payments, so the extra expense would not be great.

"I would not expect money to be the main obstacle. I think the main obstacle is to reconcile the consultant grades to what they may see as a measure of dilution to their work."

Mr Jenkin gave a warning that there was no extra money available for the paramedical staff who went on strike for 24 hours last Friday.

Lord Kagan's son committed for trial

Our Correspondent

Kagan's son is alleged to have been taken against Lord Kagan who is in Paris.

Yesterday Mr Kagan, aged 28, of Barkisland Hall, Barkisland, West Yorkshire, was committed for trial at Leeds Crown Court.

He is accused of four charges of stealing a total of 239 drums of Indigo dye powder; nine charges under the Exchange Control Act involving a total of \$360,000 (£163,412); and three charges of false accounting.

Mr Raymond Kennedy, aged 52, a company secretary of Wedgwood Drive, Roundhay,

Leeds, was sent for trial on four allegations under the Exchange Control Act.

Mr Robert Taylor, for the prosecution, explained to the magistrates that extradition proceedings are being taken against Lord Kagan but the proceedings only involve four charges of stealing Indigo dye and one of false accounting.

Reporting restrictions were not lifted for the hearing. Mr Kagan and Mr Kennedy were granted bail and the charges against Lord Kagan were adjourned.

Right for access to files is secret with 1-year closure orders

Scottish Office has been accused of keeping its records in a secret service. Sir William Permanent Under-Secretary of State and head of the service in Scotland, has to an article in *The Times* which said the Office wrapped any that looked touchy or sensitive, especially politically embarrassing, with a 100-year closure.

After the newspaper, I am said the rules about including the special needs for research applied to Scottish records as they did to Whitehall departments.

I know of no instances under these arrangements.

Scottish Office remains closed where a

the same kind from government department to the public", he wrote.

He wanted to

encourage the use of

Record Office by workers.

availability of public

has become a sensitive

feeling is generally

important accountability

open scrutiny of action

or civil powers. The

Records Committee is

the comparable Act

and Wales.

incident of history made

different on access

to Records Acts of 1955

7 laid down a normal

of only 30 years' closure

and Wales. In Scotland "modernized" its

records law in 1937, no

were included for

periods of closure. But

66, access to government records has been controlled by the same rules that

Whitehall departments

the Lord Chancellor's

Office strongly

that departments exercise

discretion. Any

one may ask to see any

file. The appropriate

looks at the request

by its release? Does

use of the information

national security?"

you be embarrassed or

by its release? Does

live issues in govern

public service?

closure was placed

on nationally sensitive papers

Commissioner saw youth kill with axe, jury told

Correspondent

PC Kellam had discovered Mr James using the billhook to smash his way into the shop and chased him into St James's church.

Mr Arthur Worsfold, a pensioner, who was in his home near the church, saw two men running from the shop towards the church, and one of them caught up with the other by the vestry door.

There was a clash, a torch fell to the ground, and two or three seconds later, doubtless, a blow with the billhook was struck.

Mr James was seen running

away through the churchyard

by Mr Benjamin Grainger and his wife, Eva, who were walking home through the churchyard.

Mr Grainger had spotted Mr James sheltering from the rain

in a shop doorway on their way

to the church an hour earlier,

Mr Back said.

He was able to describe Mr James with considerable accuracy, adding that he was wearing blue and red clothing.

Mr James, of West Ashton

Road, Trowbridge, was seen at his home within two hours of the murder and the police

found that he had been wearing

a blue and red cardigan, which

was still damp. Mr Grainger

picked him out at an identification parade.

The hearing continues.

The hearing continues.

Peer and MP caught by police in a brothel

When police raided a brothel they found more than 50 men, including a member of the House of Lords, a member of Parliament, accountants, solicitors, barristers and businessmen, it was stated at Inner London Crown Court yesterday.

Cynthia Payne, aged 46, pleaded guilty to exercising control over three prostitutes and keeping a disorderly house at Ambleside Avenue, Streatham.

She pleaded not guilty to further counts of exercising control over prostitutes. Her pleas were accepted by the prosecution.

Judge David West-Russell said that he did not accept that Miss Payne was unfamiliar with the law because she had appeared in court on four occasions for running a brothel.

Miss Payne was sentenced to 18 months imprisonment for keeping a brothel and fines of a total of £1,950 on the three counts of exercising control.

She was also ordered to pay costs up to £2,000 because the judge said he saw no reason why the public should have to pay for the police time involved.

Mr Donald Farquharson, QC, for the prosecution, said that police watched the house in Ambleside Avenue during October, November and December, 1978.

They raided the premises on December 6 and found films and obscene matter which the police suggested were used as bait.

In 12 days' observation the police said 249 men and 30 women entered the premises for sexual intercourse.

The men paid £15 to go in and that was split equally be-



The house in Ambleside Avenue, Streatham, that was used as a brothel.

tween Miss Payne and the Some women were naked. Others were scantly dressed. Some were described as amateurs who had chosen to earn extra money, Mr Farquharson said.

Each person paid £25 to go to the party. A ticket was given in the form of a luncheon voucher. The men then sought partners. The girls were paid £5 for each ticket surrendered to Miss Payne.

The police found items for bondage, various sex aids, and ES60. Films were found in tins and cupboards.

Supt Terence Powell said that Miss Payne had two previous convictions for keeping a brothel, in 1965 and 1974.

Referring to Mr G. Robertson, for the defence, Supt Powell agreed that the client was mostly middle-aged. It included accountants, barristers and solicitors, an MP and a member of the House of Lords.

Arts Council warning over theatre subsidies

By Kenneth Gosling
Arts Reporter

Mr John Faulkner, drama director of the Arts Council, has written to subsidized theatre companies throughout the country warning them that payments will be withdrawn unless they keep up with their paperwork.

That includes weekly and monthly box-office returns, duplicated copies of notices of meetings, agendas and minutes, advance information about productions and press conferences and copies of leaflets and programmes.

One theatre administrator said yesterday: "This is the first time sanctions have been threatened. We exist to run theatres, not to churn out statistics. All the local authorities who support us need the audited accounts and this should do for the Arts Council, plus, of course, notification of any coproductions that we undertake."

Mr Faulkner's letter to administrators says that of more than 100 companies supported by the council fewer than a dozen have consistently complied with all the requirements throughout the past year.

If this problem persists in the coming financial year, the council will not make payments to companies which fail in substantial ways to comply with these conditions."

Prudential profile No. 2: Kenneth Fleet reporting



Allen Sey (left), a Prudential Agent, talks insurance with policyholder Robert Barclay, on his farm in Ayrshire, with Kenneth Fleet (right), leading financial journalist and City Editor of the Sunday Express.

"The Prudential has strong support at the grass roots. I find out why."

Local representation has always been one of the Prudential's strengths. The Company has as many as 460 District Managers with over 11,000 staff - the men and women from the 'Pru' who keep in daily contact with people in their district. Kenneth Fleet visited a typical Prudential country 'parish' in Scotland to join a Prudential agent on his rounds of the local farming community.

Kenneth Fleet: When did you begin to think about insurance?

Robert Barclay: (farmer) When I was a boy my father took out insurance for me. When I got married and started a family I took out more.

Fleet: I imagine there are several types of insurance which a farmer finds necessary for his farm and for his work?

Barclay: The main one is fire and storm damage cover. With farming nowadays mechanical accident risks have increased. Also accidents to visitors - like yourself.

Fleet: Although you're still a young man do you think about a pension?

Barclay: The earlier you get started the better as far as these things go. My father was a bit older before he took out a pension policy and he's paying a far bigger premium than if you start young.

Fleet: Tell me, Allen, how your connection with Mr. Barclay has developed.

Allen Sey: (Prudential Agent) It's developed greatly since I took over nine years ago, in part due to inflation. The Barclays felt that if the farm was to keep in step with inflation they would have to increase their policies accordingly.

Fleet: Do you offer the whole range of insurance to a farmer like Mr. Barclay?

Sey: We're geared for all sorts of policies. One policy which is a great attraction to a farmer like Robert, deals with capital transfer tax. A Prudential policy enables proceeds on the death of his father to be paid to Robert free of tax, as a capital sum. Capital transfer tax is one of the farmer's biggest concerns nowadays.

Fleet: Do you call regularly?

Sey: I come out once a quarter to collect life insurance premiums and of course I also call yearly to review the house and farm insurance.

Fleet: Robert, do you see Allen as somebody trying always to sell you an insurance policy, or do you see him more as a friend and adviser?

Barclay: Oh more as a friend. He's not ramming it down your throat all the time.

Fleet: Is he good at settling claims?

Barclay: Pretty good. Two recent claims were dealt with fairly efficiently. The porch in front of the house blew down in a storm.

Fleet: He's done a good job for you, and you feel you've got a good deal?

Barclay: Aye.

Fleet: Allen, how big is your area?

Sey: About 33 square miles, consisting of mainly farming community.

Fleet: Do they rely on you for all their insurance?

Sey: I have probably more farm calls than 80% of my competitors and therefore I concentrate more on that side of the business.

Fleet: Apart from the merits of the actual policy you sell, what is the most important thing that makes you so successful in your job?

Sey: The service the Prudential gives to its client. If there's a claim, Mr. Barclay picks up the phone and I'm up there probably the same day. I assist him generally in filling in the claim forms whereas many insurance offices leave the policyholder to fill it in himself. With us you're not just a number.

The Prudential's annual report is now available from the Publicity Department, Prudential Assurance Company Limited, 142 Holborn Bars, London EC1N 2NH.

Prudential
You don't know the half of it.

HOME NEWS

Local elections: Yorkshire Liberals confident

Conservatives and Labour fight over impact of cuts on region

By Ronald Kershaw

If confidence is the keystone of success, the Yorkshire region is moving towards some fascinating fights in the city and district council elections on May 1. All three main parties are convinced that they are on a winning streak and that surprises, if not shocks, will emerge on May 2.

Election campaigns have not yet burst upon ratepayers, but sufficient forward planning has been carried out to let it be known that both Labour and Conservative candidates will fight the election on national issues and their undoubted impact on the regions, while the Liberals will concentrate on domestic issues dictated at local level.

Mr Harold Sims, Yorkshire regional organizer of the Labour Party, said quite flatly: "In South Yorkshire there will be no change. Labour will retain control of Sheffield, Doncaster, Rotherham and Barnsley".

No one seems particularly keen to argue heatedly that this view except, perhaps, Mr Stephen Whithead, who organized for the Liberals, who suggested that for the first time in memory a couple of Labour seats in the Tickhill and Rossington wards of Doncaster might fall to the Liberals. There had been considerable Liberal activity in the Doncaster area, he said.

Mr Sims admitted that West Yorkshire, which comprises Leeds, Bradford, Calderdale, Kirklees and Wakefield counties, looked like being the most interesting of fights.

Of those, Leeds City looks particularly intriguing. The council membership comprises 44 Labour, 44 Conservative and eight Liberal members. Bound

ary changes have increased the number of marginal wards and the whole of the council will have to seek re-election instead of the usual one-third.

An additional ward makes a total of 99 seats, three in each ward.

Labour supporters are similarly confident that they will take control of Leeds, but the marginal nature of some of the redrawn wards makes the Liberals equally confident. "We are fielding 53 candidates in Leeds and we are looking for a large number of gains", Mr Whithead said.

He was confident that throughout the region the Liberal base vote would increase. "Since the General Election, the indications have been that we shall make substantial progress, particularly in Leeds, York and Sheffield", he said.

The Labour Party is looking for advances in Bradford, where, Mr Sims said: "If the swing is big enough, we shall take control". The same could apply in Calderdale where there is a new ward and membership of the council will increase.

The present constitution of Calderdale Council is 26 Conservatives, 13 Labour and seven Liberals. There are 20 Conservative candidates, 21 Labour, 16 Liberals and one each from the Ecology Party, the Communist Party and the National Front.

There are three UDI candidates at Kirklees (Unit for Dewsbury's Independence) seeking a severing of ties from Kirklees and restoring the old Dewsbury Corporation's former independence. At York, the Conservatives are fairly confident of retain-

ing control. They have 23 seats, Labour has 13 and the Liberals nine. Here again the Liberals are looking for an advance. Wakefield is Labour controlled and the indications are that it will remain so, according to Mr Sims.

The alleged inadequacies of the Government will form the main plank of the Labour Party's platform throughout the region. Mr Sims said that cuts in local government expenditure, particularly those in education which had meant increased costs of school meals, school travel and the like, would weigh heavily with many parents.

The actions of the Government and the effect of its measures on the man in the street are upheld by the Conservatives as a recipe for vote winning. Conservative supporters point out: "The people who are most vociferous against the cuts are those people who are in receipt of the money".

Mr Eric Ward, Conservative Central Office agent for Yorkshire, said: "We are pleased with our early canvass returns. People were expecting a rough Budget and found that it was not as painful as they expected.

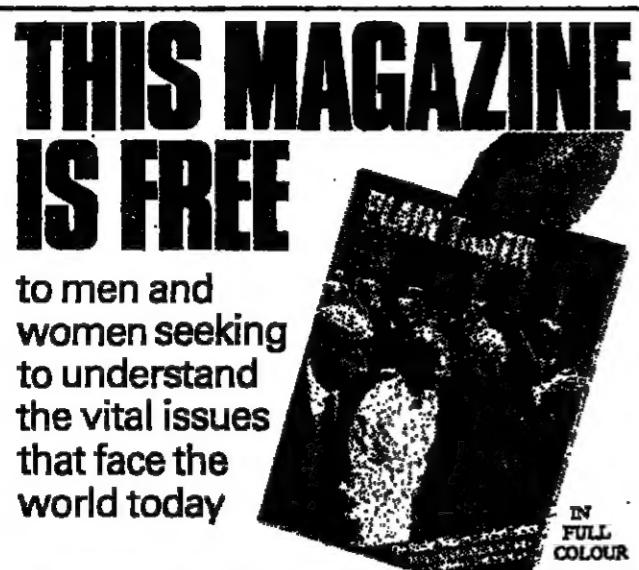
Although they do not come under a Conservative label, ratepayers' candidates at Barnsley are cashing in on the government cuts and the increases in local rates imposed to maintain local government services.

Barnsley Ratepayers' Association for the first time is making a determined effort to gain control of the council, contesting 18 of the 22 seats. It holds 16 of the council's 50 seats and will defend six of those.

Mr Sims said: "We are pleased with our early canvass returns. People were expecting a rough Budget and found that it was not as painful as they expected.

Mr Sims admitted that West Yorkshire, which comprises Leeds, Bradford, Calderdale, Kirklees and Wakefield counties, looked like being the most interesting of fights.

Of those, Leeds City looks particularly intriguing. The council membership comprises 44 Labour, 44 Conservative and eight Liberal members. Bound



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PARLIAMENT, April 21, 1980.

Loan from European Bank could help firms in north-west

House of Commons

and Lancashire are the leading industrial areas in the north-west. What is there to replace it? Without British Aerospace and British Leyland the Preston area would be in considerable difficulties but what are the consequences for the future of relying on these two particular industries?

The regeneration of the industrial base of the region should be the highest priority. Other industrial areas require a high degree of regeneration. The steel industry is not forthcoming from the private sector.

The actions of the Government and the effect of its measures on the man in the street are upheld by the Conservatives as a recipe for vote winning. Conservative supporters point out: "The people who are most vociferous against the cuts are those people who are in receipt of the money".

Mr Eric Ward, Conservative Central Office agent for Yorkshire, said: "We are pleased with our early canvass returns. People were expecting a rough Budget and found that it was not as painful as they expected.

Although they do not come under a Conservative label, ratepayers' candidates at Barnsley are cashing in on the government cuts and the increases in local rates imposed to maintain local government services.

Barrie Ratcliffe, Labour MP for Barnsley, said: "The quality of life in his area was being eroded. The cuts have meant that here, as in a number of other towns or there, less facilities for a sports centre, or there were less home helps available; these were things which an area which was on balance had not needed and wanted."

The Conservative Party ought to take the sharp end of industry and ask the selected areas for which it is responsible to stop dumping of foreign exports. The Government might be prepared to allow the textile industry to second paid employees to the anti-dumping unit.

The Government should take advantage of public sector buying within the region to help British industry. Above all, they need lower interest rates.

Mr Arthur Davidsen (Accrington) said: "The quality of life in his area was being eroded. The cuts have meant that here, as in a number of other towns or there, less facilities for a sports centre, or there were less home helps available; these were things which an area which was on balance had not needed and wanted."

Mr Tony McNally (Stockport, South, Lab) said small business men who voted Conservative did not imagine there would be a more than doubled rate of inflation, a unique record level of M.R. held for a number of years.

Mr Michael Heseltine (Cardigan, Lab) said: "The Government's treatment of the region has been

one of the worst in the country. The region which could only be described as an economic blight.

It was a wonder that the tolerance and good humour of the region's people had not broken before now. The Government's actions over the past 11 months were stretching the tolerance of the most moderate.

Almost everywhere that people in the region had worked for all their lives was being eroded so that the Government could indulge in free marketisation and transfer of wealth to pay the affluent.

The Prime Minister and her Government were planning a dangerous course. It would receive the censure if it fully deserved at the local elections on May 1 when people would vote against the recidivists fully being perpetrated against them.

The Prime Minister had recently said it would be foolish to change the treatment and everyone felt ill after a major operation.

On May 1 (he said) the message will be quite clear. The north-west was given the wrong treatment, it is the wrong hospital, and above all it is the wrong doctor.

Mr Walter Clegg (North Fylde, C) said the Government's policy of sending industry free and sending up enterprise zones would have more effect than pounds of flesh.

Mr Alexander said yesterday that noise was the only environmental pollutant that would continue to increase because noise abatement policies were inadequate. Forecasts were particularly bad for Britain and France.

The proposal will be put next month to a ministerial meeting on noise abatement policies. It is one of several to result from an international survey of urban areas by the OECD which showed that the level of noise would continue to increase to the year 2000 unless direct action was taken.

Mr Alexander said yesterday that noise was the only environmental pollutant that would continue to increase because noise abatement policies were inadequate. Forecasts were particularly bad for Britain and France.

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Minister condemns callous attack on police station by IRA

Parliamentary Correspondent in the vehicle I-1000, which was damaged in the explosion.

Mr Michael Heseltine (South Down, Ulster, U.D.)—The greatest concern

is that the Government could make no prevention of a repetition of this and similar events is to assist the behaviour which caused it. The IRA message that the safety and future of Northern Ireland may be radically altered.

Mr Peter Robinson (Belfast, East, U.D.)—This scenario may like it fall to cause death more because of the bad way they are handled by the IRA rather than because of the security forces in providing for the innocent members of the public in the province.

Mr Alan Beale (Opposition, Pontefract, Lab)—It is absolutely clear that the attack was launched from a by no means innocuous vehicle and the timing of the device was carefully calculated.

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Mr Alan Beale (Opp



Have you noticed how luxury, like beauty, is often only skin deep?

If you're easily seduced by thick carpets and comfy seats, there are any number of 'luxury' cars to choose from.

If, however, you believe there's more to luxury than meets the eye (or for that matter, the posterior), the list of candidates rapidly shrinks.

Two cars that bear closer scrutiny are the Vauxhall Royale Saloon and Royale Coupe.

Their distinctive looks owe as much to the science of the wind tunnel as to the art of the designer.

Both cut through the air with the minimum of turbulence and, as a result, with minimal wind noise.

A tapered, sloping bonnet and, below the bumper, an air dam reduce aerodynamic lift at speed and underline

the cars' remarkable stability and impressive roadholding.

Even the door mirrors are specially contoured to deflect spray and dirt away from the side windows.

Road noise, too, is suppressed not just by layers of insulation, but by the suspension itself.

Springs and shock absorbers, for example, have been

Luxury is built in, not bolted on.

mounted closer to the wheels than is customary.

They react faster and more effectively to the smallest movement and successfully iron out those irritating small bumps that can be so intrusive.

While the bodywork itself has a natural resonance too high to be excited by road vibrations.

The engine, a silky 2.8 litre 140 bhp six-cylinder unit, is additionally steadied by two diagonally positioned hydraulic dampers for further smoothness.

And automatic transmission is, of course, standard on both cars (with manual available at no additional cost).

Inside, the Royale is one of the few cars that allows the driver to achieve not just a good driving position, but the ideal one.

You can adjust the driver's seat for height, as well as for reach and rake and the steering wheel is tiltable.

As you'd also expect, the steering is powered.

Examine a Royale at your nearest Vauxhall dealer, and don't simply be seduced by the lavish specification.

You'll find it's one of the few cars where luxury is more than just a question of appearances.

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WEST EUROPE

Britain still waits for EEC refund decision

From Michael Hornsby
Luxembourg, April 21

Despite recent signs of compromise in Mrs Thatcher's battle to secure a drastic reduction in Britain's contribution to the EEC budget, finance little progress here today towards resolving the two key issues of the amount and duration of financial relief for Britain.

Speaking to journalists after the meeting, Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, none the less expressed confidence that the means of achieving a solution to the British budgetary problem had been established. It was now up to heads of government at their summit meeting on April 27 to 28 to take the final decision.

It was agreed by the ministers that the two elements in a final solution should be a modification of the Dublin mechanism of 1975, which reimburses countries contributing an excessive share of budget revenue, supplemented by extra EEC expenditure in Britain to boost the current low level of British receipts from the budget.

A modified Dublin mechanism would give Britain a refund on its gross contribution of about £300m, according to calculations made by the European Commission. Any further help would thus have to come from increased EEC spending on agreed projects in Britain.

M. René Monory, the French Economics Minister, for the first time gave top-level French support for this approach, but at the same time insisted that any special aid agreed for Britain should not last beyond the end of 1982. There was wide concurrence in this view, though some other ministers were prepared to consider an extra year.

At one point Sir Geoffrey said Britain would be satisfied to get half the money it wanted from the Dublin mechanism and half from extra EEC spending implying total relief to only £600m. But later, when pressed to say whether this was the right conclusion to draw, he denied that he had used the word "half" in a mathematical sense.

Sir Geoffrey defended his Government's case that any arrangements for reducing the British budget deficit should last for at least six years so that the problem would not recur after a few years.

The finance ministers did not even get into serious discussion of how much aid Britain should get, and indeed much of the meeting was spent haggling over how to measure the size of Britain's net contribution.

Sir Geoffrey, drawing on calculations made by the Commission argued that Britain's net contribution lay between £1,025m and £1,100m, adding that the upper figure was now the more realistic because the rising value of the pound had eliminated the EEC subsidies previously paid on British food imports.

By contrast, the French produced figures purporting to show that the real level of Britain's net contribution was only around £840m, partly because of the carry-over from last year of funds earmarked for Britain which had not been spent.

Belgium and Luxembourg also argued that their receipts from the budget were exaggerated by the funds they received to finance the running of the EEC institutions located on their territories, such as the European Parliament, the European Commission and the Council of Ministers.

They calculated Britain's share of these administrative expenses at more than £100m, and said that the estimate of Britain's net budget contribution should be revised downwards by this amount.

Squatters may disrupt Dutch royal ceremony

From Our Correspondent
Amsterdam, April 21

Dutch squatter groups are planning to hold demonstrations in Amsterdam on April 30, the day when Queen Juliana will formally abdicate and her eldest daughter, Crown Princess Beatrix, will be invested as the new queen.

Although a spokesman for the groups did not divulge the nature of the demonstrations, he hinted that they would be aimed at disrupting the ceremonies.

After the breakdown was repaired only a small amount of decontamination is said to be necessary before the plant resumes production, probably within a week.

The French company Gogema describes the accident last Wednesday, a fire in the main transformer room, as "an operational error". The accident caused breakdown of the ventilation equipment which maintains a positive pressure in the plant so that nuclear materials cannot leak from their chambers. It also switched off cool-



A young stag leaping to freedom in the Bavarian National Park after being tagged by scientists who capture them at the end of winter to study their movements and feeding habits.

M Mitterrand in fresh leadership struggle

From Charles Hargrove
Paris, April 21

M. François Mitterrand, the Socialist leader, has sharply reined in M. Michel Rocard, his younger challenger for the party nomination in next year's presidential elections, and insisted in a radio round-table debate last night that he was the best guarantor of the Socialists' enduring unity.

It was as broad a hint as he has given so far that he would stand himself, although officially the Socialist candidate is not to be chosen until next autumn at the earliest.

This latest episode in the subterranean struggle for the party leadership between the "young Turks" in the entourage of the ageing party leader, who is 63, and M. Rocard was touched off by the latter's tour of Socialist party branches throughout the country in recent weeks.

The tour's purpose is to improve M. Rocard's standing—which has outstripped M. Mitterrand's in public opinion generally for some months now—within the party machine, and win over to his side a majority of the party's members, with whom the choice of the party candidate will ultimately lie.

May of them still look upon him and his more moderate, pragmatic, and undogmatic approach to Socialist policy as

a deviation from social democracy and a threat to party unity.

As for the "young Turks" in the party leadership, their hostility to M. Rocard is at least as much a matter of power as of doctrine. They consider their continued influence in the party is bound up with M. Mitterrand's candidature in next year's presidential contest, and are therefore determined to stop M. Rocard at all costs.

Recently, M. Lionel Jospin, the national secretary of the Socialist Party, and therefore its number two, who has never made any bones of his deep-seated personal antipathy for M. Rocard, hinted that he himself would stand as the party candidate if M. Mitterrand should decide not to stand.

Last night he sent a sharply worded letter calling M. Rocard to order for a number of public statements in which he had "caricatured the standpoint of the First Secretary and of other members of the party leadership" by insisting on their hidebound allegiance to the historic Socialist tradition of state control.

M. Rocard was also taken to task for his message to the Quebec Minister for Inter-Governmental Affairs in favour of sovereignty, and for accepting an invitation "of the Con-

servative Government of Mrs Thatcher" to visit London last week, "without any mandate" from the party.

Finally, for good measure, M. Laurent Fabius, the party spokesman, stated that the party's Executive Committee had received several complaints from local party branches that they had only learnt of M. Rocard's planned visits to them through the press.

After the ground had been prepared by his trusted lieutenants, it was the turn of M. Mitterrand himself to weigh in, and tighten up the bolts of party discipline, as he puts it.

"It is normal that a member of the party minority should express views which differed from the majority's. What is not normal is that the minority should speak like the majority," he remarked.

No party was a liberal as the Socialist Party. Everything could be said and is said within its walls. But when it spoke out as such, it could only do so with one voice. A member of the minority could not do so without a mandate. In the face of the mass of talent which the Socialist Party had displayed, someone was needed to keep it together, to preserve its unity and maintain its political line, he emphasized.

There is still no official

Socialist candidate for the presidential elections. But there have been two unofficial ones for some months now. M. Mitterrand, earlier this year, tried to force M. Rocard into declaring himself openly—and thus cast himself as a divisive force in the party—by releasing him from the solemn undertaking he had given the party congress at Metz last spring not to stand if the First Secretary allowed his name to go forward.

But M. Rocard has been readied very cautiously, and has continued to adopt a low posture which has been so clearly advantageous to him so far. Last February, he merely said that he would accept the party's nomination if he got it.

This time he foiled the attempt to brand him as a man who did not respect either the rules of party discipline or the party line, and rather ostentatiously cancelled his visits to three party branches scheduled for the coming weeks.

In so doing, he hopes to compel the party leadership to state openly whether or not it will allow him to stand as a candidate. In the words of the independent Socialist newspaper *Le Matin*, which is sympathetic to his cause, he hopes to get the militants to support him to impose his candidature on the party leadership, if need be.

He has been in Pennsylvania almost continuously for the past fortnight, making several speeches a day, in the hope that he can reach and convince enough voters personally or through television to defeat Mr Carter decisively.

In a state with a population of over 11 million, considerably more than Belgium, it is obviously impossible for the senator to carry the word to every voter. A lot of people

OVERSEAS

Mr Kennedy sharpens campaign oratory and gains new hope

From Patrick Brown
Washington, April 21

After five months of campaigning for the Democratic nomination for the Presidency, Senator Edmund Kennedy and President Carter have at last discovered the style that suits them best. They call each other names.

The Democratic voters of Pennsylvania will decide tomorrow which of the two they dislike the most, and vote for the other. They are not allowed to vote in the Republican primary, there are no other candidates to get in the way, and they are perfectly aware that this will be one of the crucial events of the 1980 presidential campaign.

In the early days, Senator Kennedy tried with a notable lack of success to propose coherent policies while simultaneously flailing away at the President. This was just after the American Embassy in Tehran had been seized, and the President's popularity rose spectacularly.

Mr Carter has accumulated 874 delegates and Mr Kennedy 442. The nomination requires 1,666, and whatever happens in Pennsylvania tomorrow, Mr Carter will advance further towards that total.

The senator could win a large majority of the popular vote and find more delegates.

Mr Carter did not deign to campaign himself, but his spokesman made a point of attacking Senator Kennedy's character, record and ambitions.

Mr Carter won all the primaries and Mr Kennedy was in serious trouble.

Then Senator Kennedy reverted to the old traditions of Liberal Democrats, proposed a freeze of prices and wages, petrol rationing, and various welfare spending measures. Inflations was rising rapidly, the hostages were still in Tehran and Mr Carter's popularity was sliding down again.

Mr Carter's popularity was at a low ebb, and he was carried in the spirit of his pre-independence broad cast to the nation in which he emphasized the need to be the past and look to the future.

However, he said that amnesty should not be conceded to the kidnappers. Inflations was rising rapidly, the hostages were still in Tehran and Mr Carter's popularity was sliding down again.

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Zimbabwe to release 9,000 from prisons

From Nicholas Ashford
Selsbury, April 21

Mr Robert Mugabe, the Prime Minister, announced yesterday that about 9,000 convicted law prisoners are to be released from Zimbabwean jail during the next few days as part of an amnesty to mark independence. An additional remission of sentence is to be granted to those prisoners who are not being released immediately.

The political prisoners, who appear enthusiastic, will be released after five months of campaigning for the Democratic nomination for the Presidency, Senator Edmund Kennedy and President Carter have at last discovered the style that suits them best. They call each other names.

The Democratic voters of Pennsylvania will decide tomorrow which of the two they dislike the most, and vote for the other. They are not allowed to vote in the Republican primary.

The amnesty also releases those being tried for the last 18 months in prison or less, and those with less than 18 months to serve of a longer sentence.

So far about 1,000 prisoners have been released since Kamaili jail near Bulawayo and about 50, from Gwelo. Speaking on television and radio tonight Mr Mugabe said the amnesty would be carried out in the spirit of his pre-independence broad cast to the nation in which he emphasized the need to be the past and look to the future.

However, he said that amnesty should not be conceded to the kidnappers, because of the very serious acts committed by those being released.

On the same day, Missouri is holding party primaries and Mr Carter will probably win most of the 77 delegates chosen. Mr Carter has picked up useful numbers of delegates from conventions over the weekend in Iowa, Oklahoma, Virginia and Mississippi.

In Pennsylvania, at any rate, Mr Kennedy seems to have escaped from the burdens of suspicion and dislike that caused him such pain in the earlier primaries.

Mr Mugabe condemned recent acts of violence and lawlessness that had marred last week's independence celebrations. He gave a warning that the Government would take stern measures to deal with anyone who took the law into their own hands.

Police made a number of arrests over the weekend in an attempt to quell a series of stabbings, assaults and further fights in black townships around Selsbury and other cities. Among those held were eight members of the Zanu guerrilla army.

Mr Mugabe has accepted in principle an invitation to attend an economic meeting of the Organization of African Unity in Lagos later this week.

Japan denies of sanctions as Tehran stops oil supply

From Peter Basenhor
Tokyo, April 21

Iran banned all shipments of oil to Japan, its largest trading partner and customer, at midnight last night, the Japanese Broadcasting Corporation announced today.

The United Nations has described the killings as cold-blooded murder and blamed the Israeli-backed militiamen in South Lebanon for the soldiers' deaths.

Major Saad Haddad, who commands the militiamen, has denied that his men were involved and said a Muslim family, seeking revenge for their son, shot in a clash with Israeli troops of the United Nations force, was responsible.

Major Saad Haddad has been allowed to Japanese tankers to take on oil throughout the day yesterday and eight tankers, fully loaded, are said to have left for Japan before the ban came into effect.

Iranian oil accounts for 10 per cent of Japan's total supplies. Until midnight Japan was buying about \$20,000 barrels a day—more than a third of Iran's output of crude.

Iran threatened to cut off Japan's supply of oil last week after 12 Japanese companies, acting on the advice of the Government, refused to meet Tehran's demands for an increase of \$2.5 (just over £1) on the price of crude.

Ignoring the sentiments of powerful businessmen who oppose any action which would jeopardize Japan's oil supplies, Mr. Ochiai told the American oil companies to supply Japan with additional crude.

Mr. Ochiai, the Prime Minister, is expected to meet President Carter in Washington next month. He described the killing of the hostages in Tehran as "a challenge to international order".

Ignoring the sentiments of powerful businessmen who oppose any action which would jeopardize Japan's oil supplies, Mr. Ochiai told the American oil companies to supply Japan with additional crude.

The Government has already advised exporters not to draw up new contracts with Iran.

An official of the Ministry of International Trade and Industry said Japan's decision to turn down the new Iranian price of \$35 a barrel "cannot be

OVERSEAS

Starvation drives Haitians to seek legal refuge in Florida as drought wipes out vital crop

By Michael Leapman
Port-au-Prince, April 21

A drought and famine in the more north-western region of the island is the chief cause of the latest increase in illegal refugees, boat people, arriving in southern Florida. Already this year the number of Haitians landing illegally there has exceeded 2,500, the estimated total for all last year. America officials have said they are baffled by the sudden increase; however, a short trip to Port-de-Paix, the largest town in the north-western region, makes the son pitifully apparent.

M. Dieumerci Cleveaux, the administrator for Caritas, the Roman Catholic relief agency, is concisely in the report he is sending this week to his headquarters at Port-au-Prince.

The population of the far more scarcely recovered from the devastation of cyclone Id (last August), are once again on the edge of the menace of famine because of the drought which has been in progress for the past few months seems likely to continue.

Almost all the pea plantations, which are the principal source of the people of this area, have been destroyed by new disaster.

He reports goes on to explain the reason for forcing people, in 1 of their lives, to seek an illusory better life in the Americas or Florida.

Haitians does what it can but in areas remote from towns, where its helping hand cannot reach. In these areas, said M. Cleveaux, "if there is no rain within a month no help, the children will

any world league table of ones, this one would not among the most severe, at this stage. Its lies in that it contributes to America's latest of conscience about how it can and should do to the growing number of the dispossessed. The United States Government, although not at the

moment repatriating the refugees, is not offering them legal asylum because they say their motive for leaving Haiti is economic and not political. Even when the time has come on time the country has the lowest per capita income of any in the Western Hemisphere.

My findings in the north-west confirm that the boat people are economic refugees. What they are fleeing, however, is not just poverty but starvation.

Rain normally comes to the region during three months—December, February and May. This year February was dry.

On the farms, the carefully sown rows of peasticks stand tall and green except for a few creeping weeds. When I asked farmers when they would plant they gestured towards the hot blue sky and said: "We are waiting for the rain".

They are used to doing that. It was a drought here in 1975 which brought Caritas to the region.

M. Cleveaux took me to a settlement of mud and white huts near the centre of Port-de-Paix. About 30 families, driven to the city from the rural areas which could not support them, live in a condition of unrelied squalor and hunger.

In the huts, about 10ft square, five, six or seven people sleep together on rush mattresses spread over the mud floor. The men take what work is available as porters in the port, earning no more than a few miles a day.

The women, old as well as young, gather stones from the beach and break them smaller to be used in construction. For a pile 5ft wide and 3ft high they are paid about £1.

The children, many of them unclothed, have badly running noses because of the dust. They eat the meagre quantities of flour and rice given by Caritas, augmented by whatever small amounts of fish and fruit their family can afford.

The families would jump at the chance of an illegal ride to Florida if they had enough money. Reports of the cost of

Costa Rica offers to take all Cuban exiles

By José, April 21—Costa Rica has offered asylum to all Cubans still trying to leave through the Peruvian Embassy, and appealed to President Castro to let the exiles resume immediately. Through the Cuban Embassy has not yet responded to appeal or lifted the ban he issued on Friday on flights to Costa Rica, he did allow 32 to seek exile to fill seats on an Iberia flight from Havana to Madrid.

Most of the Cubans who fled to the Peruvian Embassy's grounds two weeks ago to go to the United States flights between Havana and Madrid would be difficult to get. Costa Rica had offered the refugees temporary until asylum could be granted.

Over 700 had been to San José and half of them had been flown on to the Cuban Government and the use of Costa Rica as an intermediate stop and said the exiles must be flown to those countries taking them as refugees.

Costa Rica responded yesterday by offering to accept all wanting to leave Cuba. The doors of Costa Rica are open for all those who have a corner in the world to fulfil their aspirations.

Private inquiry ordered to Steve Biko's doctors

Our Correspondent
Johannesburg, April 21

An inquiry will be held to determine if there should be an inquest into the professional conduct of the three doctors who attended Steve Biko, the Black Consciousness leader who died in police custody in September, 1977. An official of the South African Medical and Dental Council said the preliminary inquiry would be held in private from April 24 under the chairmanship of Professor Dr. Snyman, president of the council.

He said: "A formal inquiry will be held if there is sufficient evidence to support the for it. A formal inquiry will be open to the public." The doctors concerned are Benjamin Tucker and Dr. Lang, both Port Elizabeth.

district surgeons, and Dr. Colin Hirsch, a specialist physician.

Last December, a judge in the Pretoria Supreme Court dismissed with costs an application by Dr. Tucker and Dr. Lang to stop the Medical and Dental Council from proceeding further with preliminary inquiries into complaints about their conduct.

Complaints were laid by Mr. Eugene Roelofse, ombudsman of the South African Council of Churches, after he had read reports of the Biko inquest.

The inquest magistrate found that Biko died of massive brain injuries and renal failure after being driven 800 miles from Port Elizabeth to Pretoria, naked and manacled in the back of a police van. The magistrate found that nobody was criminally responsible for his death.

Namibia blacked out by guerrillas

By Ray Kennedy
Johannesburg, April 21
For the second time in a week, Namibia (South-West Africa) has been virtually cut off as a result of attacks by guerrillas of the South-West African people's organization (SWAPO) on the line between Rucana's electric station on the old border and the capital, Windhoek.

On last Wednesday three men, 30 miles south of the border, shown up by Swapo over two weeks ago, were dug up and restored to action. Sunday night they were up again.

Swapo's action signifies a shift in tactics from plain terrorism—the killing of village men, abductions, mining and ambushing of African troops—to economic warfare.

Ban sought on flags and anthems at Olympics

Lausanne, April 21.—The leaders of four West European national Olympic committees told the International Olympic Committee today that national flags and anthems should be banned from the Moscow Olympics.

Belgian, British, Italian and Liechtenstein representatives also said the Russians should not misconstrue the desire of most West European countries to compete as a sign of approval of Soviet policy in Afghanistan.

Sir Denis Follows, chairman of the British Olympic Association, said the four-man delegation represented 16 European committees which wanted to make sure the Russian underlings.

"Many of us also feel it is not a good idea for our national flags to be paraded before the Russian populace who might think that showed some kind of approval of the Soviet regime," said Sir Denis, although he did not think the international committee would agree to a ban "because there are many countries that set great store by that kind of thing."

"But it's time the Olympics reverted to its ideas and ideals and had less of this nationalistic stuff." He was accompanied by Mr Raoul Mollet of Belgium, Signor Franco Corrao of Italy, and Dr Peter Ritter of Liechtenstein.

German doubts: There was a "little chance" of West German athletes taking part in the games, Herr Willi Daume, president of the West German National Olympic Committee, said today.

Public opinion in West Germany has swung in favour of a boycott since the American decision, "he said. "We are still fighting back, but we have no illusions as to the outcome."

He also said that from his talks with M. Claude Collard, his French counterpart, "the French are still in favour of taking part at Moscow".

The West Germans hold the balance between the success or failure of a boycott at Moscow according to Olympic leaders, and they have been under increasing pressure first from the United States and now from the Soviet Union, which today said West Germany's absence from the games would seriously



Lord Killanin, president of the IOC, in Lausanne yesterday.

effect relations between the two countries.

The Russian pressure was applied in Lausanne by Mr. Ignati Novikov, president of the Moscow Olympic Committee and a Soviet Deputy Prime Minister, during a private meeting with Herr Daume.

Sources at the meeting said the West Germans were left in no doubt about the threat to relations between the two countries if West Germany bows to American pressure.

Herr Daume made little comment on the meeting apart from

saying the subject of Afghanistan was discussed.

Further Soviet pressure on West Germany came from Mr. Vladimir Popov, vice-president of the Moscow organizers, in an interview in Moscow with *L'Equipe*, the French newspaper.

Mr. Popov said it had taken 30 years to normalize relations between Russia and West Germany and that President Carter's pressure on Bonn to spoil everything with a boycott was "a state of mind which smelled of gunpowder".

International force to observe Uganda poll

From Charles Harrison
Nairobi, April 21

An international force of military observers, similar to that used in the Zimbabwe elections, will operate in Uganda later this year when the country's first elections since 1962 take place in the presence of President Idi Amin.

President Godfrey Binaisa announced this in a broadcast from Kampala this weekend.

He also outlined measures being taken, some with the assistance of other nations, to control violent crime in the Kampala area.

The military observer force is understood to be a compromise reached after President Binaisa had asked Britain and other friendly states to send a peacekeeping force to Uganda to have been there since the overthrow of President Idi Amin last year.

In addition, Kenya, Sudan and Tanzania are training Ugandan police in a programme designed to build up a force that is seriously depleted and unable to cope with the crime wave.

That plan was agreed last week when the Presidents of Kenya, Tanzania, Sudan and Uganda met in Mombasa.

President Binaisa said that an international plan supported by Australia, Canada, Sweden, Denmark, West Germany and the United States would provide equipment and facilities for training police recruits in Uganda. Britain has already assisted with training.

The Ugandan President called on the public to cooperate with the authorities by reporting criminals and helping to recover illegal arms. He said heavy penalties would be imposed on people who did not surrender illegal arms.

He said people were being

shot for material gain, to settle old scores, or simply to cause unrest. He suggested that Ugandan people might have launched a "bloody campaign" to cause instability as a prelude to seizing power.

Half the Tanzanian military force has been withdrawn from Uganda, and the remainder is due to go before the elections.

Meanwhile, the governments of Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda are studying recommendations for settling the complex financial affairs of the East African Community, which collapsed in 1977 after disagreements among the member states.

Dr. Viktor Umbricht, a Swiss negotiator, has submitted his findings after study of the community's assets and liabilities. Reports published here say he recommends that Kenya should pay almost £40m to Uganda for the community assets it has inherited and that Tanzania should pay £11,600,000.

Most of the community's assets, including the railway system, buildings and lake steamers are in Kenya and, to a lesser extent, Tanzania, the report says.

There are also long-term loan obligations, which in Kenya's case amount to almost £100m, for developments started under the community.

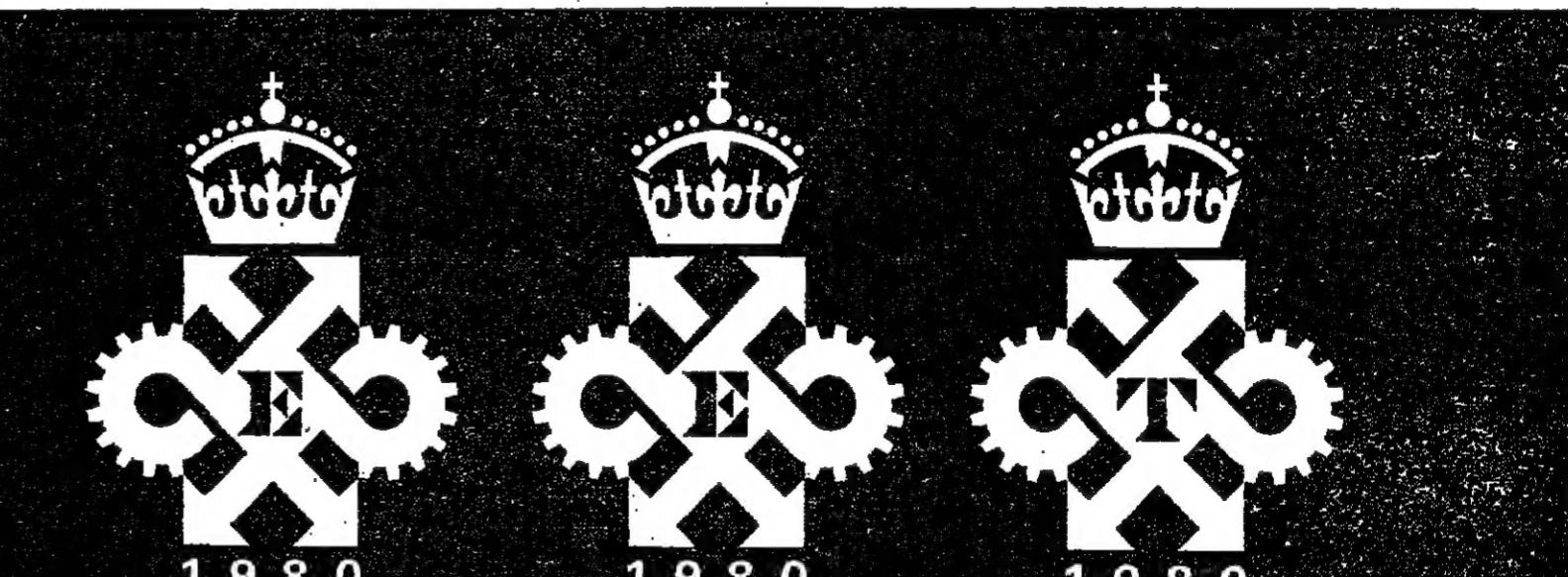
Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda now operate separate railway, postal, telecommunication and air services.

Ministers of the three states are due to meet next month to consider Dr. Umbricht's proposals. They will probably also discuss the issue of the Tanzania-Kenya border which was closed by Tanzania when the community collapsed. Tanzania is not expected to open the border until the question of community finances is settled.

Duke leads talks with Chinese

Hongkong, April 21.—The Duke of Gloucester left here today for talks in China on how Britain can help the country in its modernization drive.

He heads a 10-member mission from the British Consultants' Bureau of which he is president. The mission is making the visit at China's invitation and is expected to stay for 10 days.—Reuter.



Racal's 'Triple Crown'

Technology and exports bring three more Queen's Awards

Racal Electronics is proud to announce that no less than three of its operating companies have been honoured with the Queen's Award to Industry in 1980, and congratulates the management and staff of each of them. This record achievement for the Group brings the number of Queen's Awards to Racal companies to twenty three, fourteen for export and nine for technological achievement.

Racal-Datcom Limited operates in the communications security market and exports more than 90% of total output. This company has won the Queen's Award for export achievement.

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As the lights went out in Windhoek on Sunday and in 90 per cent of the rest of the country, it was sharply brought home that the vicious border war 200 miles away is getting closer.

Tonight officials of the South African Electricity and Water Board were seriously wondering if it was worthwhile repairing the damaged pylons at 10,000 rands (about £5,600) each, or whether the territory should revert to relying on coal-fired power from its main power station near Windhoek.

It would have provided abundant power and irrigation for much of South-West Africa and Angola. Since the independence of Angola, the MPLA regime has refused to divert the Cunene's waters into a huge underground power station on the Namibian side and the South-West African authorities have been compelled to build a tremendous expense, a pipeline to feed water into the power station from another source.

He said: "It is senseless playing this silly game. To keep on fixing the line costs a massive amount of money. The in-

OVERSEAS

Electricity industry's failures attacked by Indian minister

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W&T
A&C
E&I

From Richard Wigg

Delhi, April 21

Mr Abdul Chaudhury, India's Energy Minister, has told the private sector to generate more electricity to solve the country's chronic energy shortage and to stop gambling.

Coming after Mrs Gandhi's sudden nationalization of six large banks the statement did not help to clarify the economic policies of the Government which has now been in office for three months. Mr Chaudhury said energy difficulties were the chief constraint to India's economic growth.

As a developing nation, India faces the hard task of securing crude oil at ever dearer prices and the equally grave difficulty of tapping its own energy resources and making the most efficient use of them, especially after unrest in oil-producing Assam. The coal, hydro-electric and nuclear power sectors are all in serious trouble.

At the fierce onset of summer each year, India's persistent neglect of its energy base provokes anger among industrialists and householders facing lost factory production and cuts in electricity and water supplies.

Mr Chaudhury publicly savaged the state electricity boards. There was no systematic maintenance of generating machinery, he said (something foreign engineers have long known), boards did not listen to workers' grievances (strikes when the hot season approaches are inevitable) and the boards were mostly filled with political nominees.

It may be no different under Congress rule, but the result so far has been uneconomic tariffs to suit a powerful local clientele.

There would be no power crisis, Mr Chaudhury said, if the state electricity boards generated 60 per cent of their installed capacity. The national average is estimated at 45 per cent.

Last week Karnataka, reckoned an economically go-ahead southern state, announced, without warning, a 100 per cent indefinite stoppage of all high tension supplies throughout the state. Big companies in Bangalore made so much noise that within two days emergency supplies were channelled through the grid from Kerala, Tamil Nadu and faraway Gujarat.

The failure of last year's monsoon rains to provide sufficient water for Karnataka's hydro-electric power stations was the excuse: but the stoppage emphasized a lack of long-term planning over the past decade.

Experts appointed by the planning commission to produce a future national energy strategy have recommended

increasing oil production which is less than 15 million tonnes of crude a year, and argued that coal production and hydro-electrical schemes should be made a priority. Only 10 per cent of India's hydro-electrical power resources were being tapped. Nuclear and solar energy could come later. Coal and hydro-electrical power have been neglected because of cheap oil.

A recent medical survey, whose findings the Government has not contradicted, showed 60 per cent of India's miners were suffering from serious occupational diseases.

Mining methods are out-dated and production last year fell more than 10 million tonnes short of the 104m tonnes target. Coal India has been beset by difficulties. Elsewhere in the industry there has been labour indiscipline and, more seriously, Mafia-type gang warfare among "the bosses" in important coalfields, where the Government's writ hardly runs at all.

The Steel authority has been so badly affected by shortages of coal and power that the Government last week accepted it had no alternative but to allow 1.4m tonnes of steel to be imported this year to offset production losses. It is also considering importing a million tonnes of coking coal to safeguard steel plants should domestic supplies become even more erratic.

Iraq's oil minister, on a visit here, announced that in addition to the six million tonnes crude his country would supply India with this year, there would be a \$104m (about £47.5m) interest-free loan to cover increased oil prices since last June. With the uncertainties over Iran, Iraq has become India's chief supplier, accounting for almost a third of total oil imports.

Much is being made of that loan (in spite of its modest size compared with the total oil import bill) because it is the first of its kind in India since a commitment by the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries at last year's non-aligned summit for Third World nations in Havana.

Mr Virendra Patil, the Petroleum Minister, said the oil import bill this year will reach 50,000m rupees (more than £2,800m). That compares with total exports last year worth 60,000m rupees and this year's export target of 70,000m rupees. Such big bills are forcing India to use its own energy resources more effectively.

Little has been done to curb an annual growth rate of oil consumption of 10 per cent. Mr Patil hinted broadly that a long overdue increase in petroleum product prices would only come after next month's state assembly elections.

Afghan resistance leader refused visa for Britain

From Edward Mortimer

Peshawar, April 21

Professor Abdursals Sayaf, the head of the alliance grouping five of the six main Afghan resistance movements is to visit London in the next few days. But one of his assistants who was to have accompanied him as adviser and translator, has been refused a visa by the British Embassy in Islamabad.

Mr Ahmed Shah, who is the deputy leader of the Jamiat-i-Islami Afghanistan, one of the component groups of the alliance, told me last night he had been refused the visa on the grounds that he did not have a reentry permit for Pakistan, although he had a residence card for the United States.

He understood, he said, that the British Government did not want Afghan refugees settling in Britain. But he felt that because the British Government claimed to be opposed to the Russian occupation of Afghanistan and to support the Afghan resistance, the least it could do was to establish contact with the known resistance leaders and issue visas on their recommendation to bona fide visitors on political business.

In an interview with *The Times* last night, Prof Sayaf said that he had been invited to London by Mr Salem Azzam, the secretary-general of the Islamic Council of Europe. He was not sure whether he would seek a meeting with a member of the Government.

He wanted first to have discussions with Mr Azzam, who

Heidi Goersch stops into a car after talks at the Australian Foreign Ministry.

East German dancer defects in Australia

Canberra, April 21.—An East German dancer who disappeared shortly before her company returned to Berlin yesterday has asked to remain in Australia, a Foreign Affairs Department spokesman said today.

The Komische Oper company left Sydney after completing an eight-week tour of Australia.

The spokesman said in Canberra that the dancer, named as Heidi Goersch, made the request at a meeting with officials in Melbourne today.

The spokesman said that Heidi Goersch had applied for either political asylum or to be given refugee status in Australia. The Government would consider the request after receiving a report from officials at the meeting, he said. —Reuter.

S Yemen leader is replaced

Aden, April 21.—President Abdal Fatah Ismail of South Yemen has resigned on health grounds and has been replaced by Mr Ali Nasir Muhammad, the Prime Minister, the Aden news agency said today.

Mr Nasir Muhammad was President of the country for some months after the overthrow and execution of former President Saleh Robaya Ali in June, 1978. He is also a former Defence Minister. —Reuter.

Brezhnev praise for fishing fleet

From Michael Binyon

Moscow, April 21

President Brezhnev sent a telegram of congratulations at the weekend to the Soviet fishing fleet in the Far East, praising them for their excellent catches and saying that they had set a fine example to the whole country's fleet.

Quarterly economic figures

show that the fishing industry produced unusually good results for the first three months of this year, with production 11 per cent above the planned target.

Western reports have recently publicized a vast fraud

that went on in the fishing industry for a number of years involving the smuggling of caviar to the west and illegal sales by the Far East fleet of catches to Japanese fishermen.

After the resignation last year of the Minister of Fisheries that precluded the arrest of up to 200 ministry officials, Mr Kosygin, the Soviet Prime Minister, was officially reported to have discussed with officials ways of raising production.

Mr Brezhnev told the Far East Fleet that he was convinced they would continue to labour for the benefit of the country, using all their energy, skill and accumulated experience to fulfil their obligations and put into effect party resolutions on the increase in fish production.

Other economic results published at the weekend show that most sectors of the economy performed satisfactorily, producing better results than the disastrous first quarter of last year.

Output was severely hampered by the very cold winter, and this year has seen an overall rise of 5 per cent compared with the first three months of 1979.

Paper and pulp production

was 4 per cent below plan, the only sector not to have reached its target according to the statistics.

However, these appear to contradict the report of a meeting three days ago where the Council of Ministers under Mr Kosygin heard that other key sectors including coal, iron and steel and chemicals also had not reached their targets.

This year total coal output

was 186 million tons, a little down on the same period last year, though still 2 per cent above the target set.

Chemical and steel industries, which were sharply criticized by Mr Brezhnev last November

are still to the most discriminating shops. Atmosphere in Regent's Park Road, London N7. Tel 01-272 4378.

PS: It must work. They are looking for bigger premises.

From Richard Binyon

When I was in New Zealand I went to the Bay of Islands and there I saw a wondrous cloak, a cloak of fabric and feather and tuft of this and that, ample as the vestment of a priest, splendid as the armour of a warrior. It had belonged to the Maori chief who signed the Treaty of Waitangi in 1840.

When I saw the work of two

youngish designers, Ian Cooper

and Marcel Aucun, which I

show on the page today, the

feather motif reminded me of

the timelessness of great textile

design. Ian and Marcel met in

Canada and now they have a

studio in London where very

special and what many of you

will think very expensive

clothes are produced by hand.

I do not care for the word

expensive for it implies bad

value. What must be said is

that Ian and Marcel produce

beautiful, exceptional clothes,

all quite different, which cost a

lot of money. On the other hand

they are clothes of such sim-

plicity and classic cut, and of

such startling ravishment of

colour and texture that they

will stand you in good stead

as do my Chinese mandarin

robes which, 150 years later

and very possibly used to

decorate *Chou Chin Chow* on

Ice in the interim, retain a

dignity and innate excellence

which makes me don them

whenever in doubt.

The fabrics—always silk—

are stretched on a 11ft frame,

the pattern pieces are outlined,

then the painting begins. The

colours (with dyes from Paris)

are steam set, then dry cleaned.

Then the yardage is cut up and

sewn together—there is one

trustworthy outworker, but Ian also

makes up clothes as well as

cutting the patterns; well he

lives at St Martin's, so it's nice

to know that our extravagant

educational programme for

designers does work.

Not surprisingly, Ian and

Marcel sell to the most

discriminating shops. Atmosphere

in Regent's Park Road, London

N7. Tel 01-272 4378.

PS: It must work. They are

looking for bigger premises.

Fashion

by
Prudence Glynn

Photograph by Richard Damer. Hair by Leonard. Shoes from Rayne sh...



One day I shall stop interfering in the decisions of the good and great. One day I shall stop questioning the choice of awards, the allocation of honours, the ness of judges to judge, to say nothing of the fitness those who see themselves as suitable to be judged.

That day, however, has not dawned and so, unashamed partisan, I would like to know why Hardy Amies, one our few internationally known fashion names, and, so far I know, financially viable, has not received a Queen's Award for Export.

I am aware that we are living in a new Iron Age, and glances at the selection committee does suggest a true a proper respect for ball-bearings rather than frocks; but it at the straits in which much of Britain's once great indu...

Bernard Nevill, the textile designer, never accorded R status those who are in my view greatly his inferiors.

The gallant Mr Amies still flies the flag of initiative efficiency and quality which others have hauled down all often.

Snubs always annoy me.

Page after page of colour in the new style all-colour May issue of the new

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by Union

urgess signposts two new ways to more competitive nation

ter West

Correspondent
ish rugby passed a mile-yesterday with an RFU statement that they had in principle to premiership club leases within three to five years. It has been decided that a four-divisional competition, which is introduced in should be established partly and that player registrations in the premier should not be eligible to county competition.

Decisions have been made full control of the RFU in the report made to them by the Lancastrian Burgess, whose brief was to do what changes should be in the English playing should be limited to the performance at national level. Members were David Tony Jordan, Ron Jacobs, Barry and the chairman of the executive, England's Ian team, Eddie's proposals, now endorsed by committee, provide for routes by which a player like his way into his division and then, if he is good, to the national side. It is the premier clubs who are to decide how best to use the remainder of the competition.

It is to be congratulated

on the content of his

and the zeal with which

a committee tested opinion

about the country before

their conclusions, but

it must have been a

piece of work, it is

inevitably will be pious

but they seem to strike

onable political balance;

will get a favourable

reception from the big clubs;

and the top players.

will clearly mark.

gnères will add spice to streamlined festival dish

ter West

organizers of London's 15-a-side rugby festival due for the Chancery Twickenham on September are streamlined the format for an entry of 14 clubs on a knockout basis, leading clubs comprising today's merit table will be by Heriot's FP, last year's and by three other guest and diverse from Dublin and those should be attractive for their back division three current French clubs in New Zealand, Michel Roland, chairman of the French Council, Eric chairman of the senior clubs committee, said that they considered it to produce an up and junior side from the South and there is little doubt that will bring a host of supporters with them. The London festival, staged last year, was conducted on a pool system based under floodlights

10

welcome for S Africa

ston, April 21—New Government would not interfere. Mr Muldoon said the comments of his Foreign Minister were "simply carrying out our obligations under the Geneva agreement. I was one of the five prime ministers who brought it together in 1977", he said.

In his strongest statement yet, the Foreign Affairs Minister and Deputy Prime Minister, Mr Talboys, rejected any South African rugby team's tour so long as the apartheid system was in force in that country.

Mr Talboys deplored the "likely to destroy New Zealand's international standing" of the apartheid society.

Mr Muldoon rejected, as our policy" suggestions as could be with him. He said that the Rugby Union is available whether to write a African team and that the

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SPORT

Racing

Marathon Gold can set standard for Epsom's glittering prize

By Michael Phillips
Racing Correspondent

Vincent O'Brien is likely to decide this morning whether to run Montevechi in the 2,000 Guineas or whether to take a different path along the route to the Derby at Epsom in June. If he does run him in the Newcastle classic there is more than just an outside chance that he will wear blinkers in the hope that they will sharpen his ideas up rather than correct any dubious tendencies.

Talking of the 2,000, Michael Stoute told me yesterday that Lord Seymour, his winner of the Mill Reef Stakes at Newbury last autumn, would not be in the line-up after all. "He is simply not quite right and I need to give him more time," Stoute said. So he will be relying entirely on Saturday's Greenham Stakes winner, Fleur du Gallo, who will be partnered once again by Greville Starkey.

Starkey will be on the

stable; now that Lord Seymour, his 2,000 Guineas runner, Our Home, now that is clear that Lester Piggott's allegiance lies with Robert Sangster and Mill Reef. On Saturday Starkey did an unusual thing and took Our Home to the July course at Newmarket for a special gallop. Ridden by Starkey she went extremely well with two decent older horses, Hardgreen and Sillies Knight. All concerned were highly impressed with her outturn and the gallop so it is clear that Our Home will be forced to be reckoned with in the first classic of the season, even though the slight injury which she sustained last month

has prevented her from having a race proper.

In the circumstances it will be interesting to see how Hardgreen goes against the likes of R E Cheshire and New Berry in the Westbury Stakes at Sandown on Saturday. Meanwhile, Vincent O'Brien has formulated plans for rid of his good three-year-old at Ascot on Sunday.

At Longchamp on Sunday he will saddle Night Alert for the Poule d'Essai des Poulaillers the French equivalent of our 2,000 Guineas.

The day before he will be at Sandown Park to see Huguenot take pot luck in the 10-furlong Classic Trial there which first alerted people to the fact that Troy might win the Derby last year. At Sandown Huguenot will encounter Gimcrack, Henbit and Master Willie at home but three.

With John O'Day leading his group for the Blue Riband Trial at Epsom this afternoon we will soon be in an even better position to assess both Night Alert and Huguenot. Johnny O'Day finished with Robert Sangster and Mill Reef. On Saturday Starkey did an unusual thing and took Our Home to the July course at Newmarket for a special gallop. Ridden by Starkey she went extremely well with two decent older horses, Hardgreen and Sillies Knight. All concerned were highly impressed with her outturn and the gallop so it is clear that Our Home will be forced to be reckoned with in the first classic of the season, even though the slight injury which she sustained last month

has prevented her from having a race proper.

It would be quite wrong however to paint this as a two horse race. Other runners of interest are Brangford, whose trainer Clive Britain was successful 12 months ago with Faversham; Last Fan-dango, Highway and Sweet Pretender. Last Fan-dango won a maiden race nicely at Newmarket last Thursday; Highway a similar affair at Sandown last Saturday when he beat the running Mill.

Starkey's runner is trained by

John O'Day, who prepared

Roland Gardens to both this year and the 2,000 Guineas two years ago. Like Roland Gardens, Sweet Pretender will be carrying the colours of John Haynes who, together with others, forked out £6,000 guineas for him at Newmarket. Dancerine when he was sold on the orders of the executors of the late Sir Charles Clore. Sweet Pretender, who won over a mile at Chelmsford last year, is a full brother that good horse Anne's Pretender, who is out at stud in France. However, Maro is preferred.

For years now the Great Metropolitan Handicap has been something of a benefit for horses who have been busy hunting during the winter and I can see no reason

why it should be any different this time with Run Hard, Heighlin, Chandher and Norfolk Arrow all in the line-up. Since winning the Triumph Hurdle at Cheltenham, Heighlin has already had one race on the flat at Kempton Park. There he was unable to ward off Most Beau and today he may well be unable to cope with Run Hard, who has certainly come good during the last two months with successive victories at Chepstow and Ascot (twice).

Turnell cleared: Andy Turnell, a jockey, and Jim Jones, his trainer, have separated yesterday.

A Jockey Club disciplinary committee found that neither Turnell



Brighton belle: Miss Quaver takes the rail/road to victory over Red Russet in the Orleans Stakes.

nor Jarvis had committed any breaches of the rules of racing. Turnell was cleared of improper and excessive use of the whip on Miss Quaver. Jarvis faced the committee in regard of the instructions he had given regarding the riding of the horse.

Hill of Stane finished second, beaten by neck by Seaman in the £10,500 Keenly Asphalt Hurdle at Liverpool's Grand National meeting. Turnell was reported to be the steward of the jockey club for excessive use of the whip.

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Bernard Levin

Why Herr Sommer's daft deal is no substitute for unity

The whole of the Western alliance
is as much a deterrent as is
the nuclear weapon; but a deterrent
will only deter if it is credible

If the Western alliance is not to become as empty a myth as the Commonwealth, which only exists as a unified group in the biennial photograph of its leaders being smiled at by the Queen, something fairly radical will have to happen fairly soon. At present, it shows every sign of incipient disintegration, a state of affairs which can only be good for our enemies.

To say that something ought to be done is, of course, easier than to suggest the details of a course of action, which is itself easier than to embark upon it. But at present we—that is, the member nations of the alliance—have the advantage of having before us a proposal which, although so far presented only in outline, certainly fulfils the conditions of my definition: it would be fairly radical, and if it were undertaken in unity it would certainly demonstrate to our enemies that they would be unwise to assume that they are faced with a tiger made, if not of paper, then at the very best with cardboard, aluminium foil and string. The proposal is that the countries of Nato and the EEC should take real, rapid and if possible unanimous action in favour of the demands in President Carter's demand for sanctions against Iran and more resolute action over the Soviet annexation of Afghanistan.

In saying this, I am aware that I am presenting a view sharply contrary to that expressed editorially in *The Times* on Saturday. So be it; in recent years there have been few matters, and fewer still of great public importance, in which my views have been widely divergent from those of the paper, and it will do neither *The Times* nor me any harm, now that one such matter has arisen, for us to agree to differ. And for me, in so plainly wherein our views part company.

The argument with which I

like issue stand of course. *The Times* is not alone in holding it runs, in its essence, like this: President Carter's policy over Iran is wrong, dangerous and almost certain to fail; we are therefore under no obligation to support it, and we should not do so; we should instead produce alternative policies, on which a good start has been made with the proposal by the EEC for a neutral Afghanistan; and that a recent article by the Editor of *Die Zeit* (Herr Theo Sommer), in which he put forward a set of proposals which combined the neutrality of Afghanistan with Soviet support for the hostages in Iran, Western concessions on trade and the Olympic games, and new attempts to negotiate on European missiles, made a case which "points in the right direction".

Now my view of the proposal by the Nine for a neutral Afghanistan, its integrity guaranteed by the three superpowers and the two countries of the Indian sub-continent, struck me when it was made, and strikes me still, as one of the daftest ideas ever to receive the support of the British Foreign Office, which is saying a very great deal indeed. It suffers from an advanced form of a disease I have identified as "arcadiopathy", which is the belief that if somebody cuts it

back on again with Griffix, you will be as good as new. But it is not so with heads and people, and it is not so with Afghans and Russians. The Soviet Union took military action against Afghanistan because its leaders wanted, for a number of reasons which can be deduced, but which need not detain us here, to ensure that Afghanistan would pursue policies favourable to her interests, and not other policies. The only terms on which she would withdraw now, except under pressure are terms which would provide the substance of her original demand, no matter what happened to the shadow. In other words, Afghanistan cannot be neutralized by Soviet agreement; it can only be Finlandized.

Possibly that is what the Nine had in mind; I wouldn't put it past one or two of them. But it is not what I think anybody who values the peace of the world should have in mind. If the Soviet leaders are to receive an implicit assurance that they are free to annex any country that takes their fancy, on the understanding that after a suitable interval they will end up with the country half-annealed, then we might as well start learning the Russian for "Yes, sir. No, sir, three bags full". As for Herr Sommer's extension of the Nine's proposal—well, here is the package:

... the Kremlin should side squarely with the White House in the Tehran hostage crisis. In return, the Carter Administration should renounce economic sanctions against Russia and forgo an expansion of the list of high-technology items that Western Europe will not sell in Warsaw Pact nations. If it is not too late, the Olympics boycott should be reconsidered.

The language is refreshingly unobtrusive: Herr Sommer (who, incidentally, is normally a most sagacious and far-seeing commentator, though you will have to take my word for it, as you certainly wouldn't be able to deduce it from that passage) really does propose that, in return for a meaningless Soviet promise of sympathy for the American hostages (meaningless because the Ayatollah Khomeini would be no more inclined to listen to reason from the Soviet Union than from the United States), the Americans should abandon every action that suggests they are determined to resist aggression, even to the extent of giving back the huge propaganda advantage that the Soviet Union would have got from staging the Olympics with the whole of the rest of the world participating and watching. Why, a more cynical man than I would reflect that it's nice to see appeasement pro-

posed by a German for a change.

But to say that it would be a ruinous and possibly fatal error to legitimize in any way the Soviet subjugation of Afghanistan is not necessarily to say that the Americans are right over Iran, let alone that the rest of the alliance America leads should do as President Carter suggests. It is clear why I think Herr Sommer is wrong: I think Herr Sommer is wrong; why do I think *The Times* is wrong?

Because of all the needs of the alliance—sound policies,

readiness, a commitment to action in defence of any or all of its members, patience, positive and effective secret diplomacy—one is not only crucial, but seems to me to be more important than all the rest put together. It is that the alliance shall be, and shall be seen to be, united. Those Italics are vital; even if we are not agreed, we must act as if we are, because if we do not, the whole strength of the alliance, which rests upon a general readiness to defend our parts of the line, the alliance holds, will vanish at once. Benjamin Franklin was right: we must all hang together, or, most assuredly, we shall all hang separately.

The whole of the Western alliance is as much a deterrent as is the nuclear weapon; but a deterrent will only deter if it is credible, and the credibility of a deterrent, as opposed to its justification, does not depend on the wisdom or the virtue of those wielding it. The only thing we need to convince the Russians of is our willingness to stand together and resist them if they advance beyond the limits they have been set. Those limits are not confined to Checkpoint Charlie, and to keep the Soviet leaders convinced that they dare not move through the Brandenburg Gate it is necessary to convince them that they should not have moved across the Afghan border.

And that is why unanimous

Western action on Iran is necessary. I agree that sanctions against Iran are in themselves unlikely to bring significantly nearer the end of the hostages' ordeal, though I do not believe the possibility can be entirely ruled out. (We must bear in mind, apart from anything else, the fact that not everybody in Iran is as crazy as the Ayatollah and the "students" and that sooner or later some of the same ones may serve themselves to do something about the mad.) And on the other hand, I do not believe that resolute and united action by the Western countries will make the Ayatollah, let alone his more moderate opponents, fall into the arms of the Russians. (It has been said that any increase in tension and instability brought about by collective Western action against Iran, even if it did not make Iranian opinion more Soviet, would increase the likelihood of an actual Soviet incursion. But such collective action would be designed to serve warning on the Soviet leaders that the West is sufficiently determined and united to make any such thoughts on their parts most inadvisable.)

Because

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And that is why unanimous

Conservative MPs are told next

year, such as happened after Munich, on the other, the recession will deepen, prompting the Treasury to clamber even more readily than it does today for a "meaningful" cut in defence. Mrs Thatcher can not wear both hats indefinitely.

The disputes within the Conservative Government and party over economic and to a lesser extent social policies are real enough. The former, a fearful loss social cohesion, is less. Include both Lord Carrington and Mr. P. A. C. V. Secretary would option our approach to Europe, while the Secretary of State for Defence has fought the Falklands largely on a second front of the party's commitment to increase defence spending by 3 per cent a year. In the former, the "hawks" talk publicly about good housekeeping and call for party loyalty.

On defence, if on no other

matter, ignorance is bliss. The run-of-the-mill Tory MP knows little of the subject, party from choice (or, many it is enough to wish to be defeated), partly from the grudging reluctance with which the Ministry of Defence imports information of any value. Mr. Francis, who talks on occasion about the future of the deterrent, takes care to say nothing. He refuses to speculate either in the House or upstairs on the choices open to him. Those of us who do take an interest rely for our information on upon official sources by upon British academics or foreign journalists.

The Government's first

Defence White Paper tells us

nothing, all about the future

of the deterrent. We will have

to wait and see. Yet were the

decision taken to replace

Polaris with Trident, at the

cost of £6 billion pounds,

which a rumour has it is the

favourite option, the financial

consequences for British

defence policy would be profound.

The purchase of Trident

can only lead to another

fundamental defence

review, the fifth since the war,

the conclusions of which would

offer Mrs Thatcher a choice

either of chipping away all

round, which would be where

we are in, or cutting out one

stake of the major roles

undertaken by the British

armed forces—for example,

the Royal Air Force in Germany,

or the Royal Navy's defence of

the Western Approaches.

Ironically, one way of freeing

up the staff sclerosis is to bring

in more people on short-service

secondments from member-state

and unions.

Every year the Council of

Ministers establishes, arbitrarily,

the number of promotions

which can take place.

The Commission then decides with the unions who will fill the

places allocated. Unfortunately

the unions have adopted a

policy of rewarding age and

seniority rather than merit. One

can see the reasons for this,

but it puts one more hurdle in

front of the young high flier.

It would be wrong to think

that the Commission is blind to the waste of talent and loss of

efficiency which this policy creates.

It uses elaborate systems of personnel evaluation

which are meant to record

ability. Unfortunately, these

evaluations themselves have be-

come part of the distorting

mechanism. In the interests of

open management, the superior

has to discuss his evaluation

with each employee.

Since the boss knows that he

will have to go on working with

the employee, and has little or

no chance of removing him

except under very special cir-

cumstances, to write over-flattering assess-

ments—which then form the

basis of negotiations with the

unions on promotion.

In fact, in most years between

90 and 95 per cent of Commission

staff are described by their

superiors as "superior to the

normal". This makes it

difficult for the Commission

directors to press the case with

the unions that promotion

should be on merit, rather than

on more readily-assessable cri-

teria such as age and seniority

in the job criteria which in-

dividually discriminate against

each other.

Yet unless something is done

the Commission will continue to

lose credibility. Perhaps the

European Parliament, which

needs a strong Commission as

an ally against the selfishness

of national governments, will

take up the issue. A weapon

over the contribution to the

EEC's budget while carrying

a proportionately heavier

defence burden than do our

defence spending

merely been postponed. But

we're to purchase Trident, it

could only be done at the ex-

pense of losing major British

defence commitment, the aban-

donment of which would seri-

ously weaken the Nato alliance.

We can search the White

Paper in vain for such a for-

cast. The pictures might be

prettier, but the text remains as

unsatisfactory as ever. We

do nothing about what should

be done, the successor-system to

Polaris, and to attempt what

ever is made to spell out the

financial, political and military



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HINA'S PRAGMATIC LEADER

ould have seemed incredible years ago—as our Hongkong correspondent reported in yesterday's paper—that the Chinese communist Party is preparing to expel members with the of expelling those who still to left-wing views. Among eight millions this can mean a fringe element of Trotskyists; on the other hand, it means all those followers of the Maoism affirmed late leader as his opinions shape in the great leap forward and more particularly in cultural revolution, not on the continuing years of national struggle until his death.

One reason for the坐着 that a of this size is unmanageable. But it is known that a half of the present leadership represents the inuring and after the cultural revolution, so that at its middle levels the number who advancement thanks to their for the Maoism of the and after, rather than of times is very large. From reports in the Chinese far too few of them—for yet another swing of the al pendulum or from the have even now not given full support to the policies pursued.

slow process of ideologizing is one part of China's Maoist transition. There are parts that are more apparent to the outside observer and measurable. One is the style of mass involvement in command, class struggle, endless campaigns in an unattainable ideology—and in its place concentration on economic issues without which all hopes, persisting for half a century and more, will be undermined. The other part, directly

linked to the new economic objectives, is to promote men well equipped to advance them. Mr Deng Xiaoping emerged as the commanding figure in all these changes at the third plenum of the party's central committee in December, 1978. Since then the direction of policy has increasingly been his and even more obviously all the new appointments have shown his hand. Not least significant of signs for the future were the appointments last week of two new vice-premiers: Mr Zhao Ziyang and Mr Wan Li, both of them known to be close to Mr Deng.

That so much has been Mr Deng's doing, and that some of his aides suggest that he is preparing to take a back seat once he is assured that the direction of the country's affairs is in hands that will pursue the policies he has set for China's future, necessarily raises the question that still worries many of the thirty-eight million and many more besides outside the party: is this new regime, with its "revisionist" policies going to last? Or might there be yet another swing to the left that would reverse the obvious swing to the right of the past two years, bringing with it another gruelling era of retribution?

If one looks at the personalities of the four men who have made the new China: Mao Tse-tung, Chou En-lai, Liu Shao-chi and Deng Xiaoping, Mr Deng has shown himself to be the least ideological of the four. Though his outlook has undoubtedly been formed by a lifetime in the party, his main drive is as a man of successful action: above all, a man who has no taste for the woolly jargon that set going the cross currents of the cultural revolution. This surely makes him the right man to determine China's path in the coming decade. Even a limited knowledge of their history shows the

Chinese people to be essentially pacific, relishing harmony and cooperation rather than struggle. possessed of a strong preference for order against disorder. As a man who has resolutely turned his back on revolutionary turmoil, Mr Deng would certainly win their mass support. Yet with so vast a bureaucracy, those who gained advancement by their enthusiasm in the cultural revolution, while only a tiny part of a "politically conformist" and otherwise silent population, can be several millions.

Such pockets of resentment, and other genuine opponents who find cause to complain of a system that they would like to reject outright, must not be forgotten in seeing the gradual completion of a China reshaped by Mr Deng. After his second rehabilitation in 1977 it was only too easy to posit a confrontation, if not a "power struggle" between Mr Deng and Mr Hua Guofeng who had, visibly and unmistakably, climbed to power behind the scenes of the economic consequences of irresponsible

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Businessmen asked to select one of these as highest priority would undoubtedly choose secret ballots. Industrial relations must be conducted on a basis of consent and not coercion. Only compulsory and secret ballots open to trades union members can provide a satisfactory consensus basis.

He began by correcting the

excessive economic plans which were far beyond China's competence.

Only then did he turn to

skillful handling of the obstacles that remained, especially the Maoist following still with seats in the party political bureau.

They have now all been edged out without disgrace or calamity.

They have been replaced either

by the more able members of the

rehabilitated old guard or by

newcomers to the highest rank

such as Mr Zhao Ziyang. Mr Zhao was already a spokesman for a mixed economy even before his tour of western Europe last summer. If his present appointment makes him Mr Deng's choice as future Prime Minister, leaving the party leadership to Mr Hua, then indeed the new China will bear Mr Deng's stamp. It should last for some time without disturbance.

UST IF IMPERFECT AMENDMENT

anxiety to leave a durable monument behind Mr James Prior pitched his amendment Bill last year at a quite inadequate to cope with the handicaps that British industry has suffered under because legal privileges enjoyed by unions. The Bill was not of bringing real improvement to the obsolete production, archaic demarcations aggravated manning levels told back many sectors of industry. Though strengthened by the new clause on strike action, it remains a preoccupation with major issues connected with the of disputes, and fails to with the central problem of the closed shop and the legal immunities of strikers. actions do not seem to have sufficiently softened the attacks a Bill made by union

that the opportunity is missed that the opportunity is causing a growth of impatience among conservative backbenchers. Bill is finding expression. Bill returns to the floor House, in a number of motions designed to stiffen and there, though the raised by the central are too complex to be satisfactorily in this the promise of a Green and a further Bill has been to mollify the rebels. Last they forced a division overal to make union funds

E TERRORISM OF THE STATE

important point about the on Argentina by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights is not so much its appalling though they are, been known for some time usually the military government set about its campaign against terrorism, so that the of killings, torture, and "disappearances" in the past few years serves as confirmation of earlier. The new element is the at the account is given by the United American States, and that based on an extraordinarily inquiry, conducted in the glare of publicity in Argentina. When the commission last September out its investigations it more than 12,000 cases of disappearances at the of the authorities, people up in the streets to give and, apart from meetings with the authorities, its were able to go into issues and talk to opponents regime.

Salute
Mrs A. L. Martin
was sorry to see that Hugh Emery-Massingberd in his (April 17) new book the late Prince Henry, Duke of Gloucester, chose to give pride of place to his own writing by playing down achievements of a very fine and gentleman. Prince Henry served with his at Catterick Garrison

available to compensate employers adversely affected by secondary picketing. Today they mean to press a series of amendments which would make it mandatory for a union to hold a ballot on industrial action, if a significant minority of members asked for one. Once a ballot had been asked for, and until its results proved that the action had majority support, the safeguards for strikers under section 13 of the Trade Union and Labour Relations Act 1974 would not apply.

The Bill as it stands makes provision for such ballots to be subsidised from public funds, but leaves it to the leadership of the unions concerned to decide whether to hold them, and when. Even this proposal has aroused loud objections in the labour movement, from those who fear, or profess to, that their independence would be compromised by the receipt of public money. Others see the benefits of the proposal, but make less noise. In unions whose leaders do oppose ballots, the Bill would do nothing to ensure that ordinary members gain the right to express their opinion democratically about industrial action that they may be compelled by union disciplines to undertake.

In principle it is clear that union members should be consulted about the merits of any proposed strike in which they would be involved, and consulted

in such a way that the possibility of intimidation is eliminated. Several recent instances have shown how far out of touch with their followers a union's leaders can be. The right is a difficult one to guarantee effectively in statute and the attempt carries the danger of turning opinion among trade unionists against balloting. It is hard to frame provisions which will work effectively in complex situations where more than one union may be involved, and where the action planned may not even be official.

There is some doubt whether any of the amendments so far proposed fully measure up to these complexities. But the case is strong for safeguarding trade unionists' right to be consulted, above all where the leaders of their unions would deny them. The proposals would also have the effect, by temporarily suspending the immunities, of introducing a kind of cooling-off period, wherever a substantial minority of those ordered to strike had reservations. There is still time for Mr Prior to consult the interest groups involved and make a more serious attempt to improve a satisfactory clause for introduction in the Lords. Unless they receive adequate assurances, which the Prime Minister did not give yesterday, Conservative members would be justified in supporting the amendment, which could itself be improved at a later stage.

bers of the OAS when the organization's general assembly met later this year. More important, however, is how the government responds in its internal policies. As the report notes, there has been a considerable reduction in the number of rights violations since last October, and there are grounds for hoping that the situation may improve further. By agreeing to admit the commission last year, the government lifted a veil of silence from the human rights issue and made it a legitimate subject of public discussion. But any decision of this sort, apparently taken by the mode of strike members of the armed forces, is always fiercely challenged within the regime by the hardliners, and in view of the past record of the government as a whole it is hard to be confident of the outcome. What can be said for certain is that the Argentine military government has a great deal to answer for, and a large number of people to account to. It is not just a matter of ending the abuses, but, as the commission recommends, of investigating and punishing those that have taken place in the past.

But that, my father replied, "was the Duke of Gloucester." Later when I heard the Prince discussed at Balls, or in after-dinner conversation, it was only with respect and admiration, and were the people who knew best. Yours truly,

ANNE L. MARTIN,
60 Marygate,
York.
April 18.

During the summer of 1935, I remember walking with my father, then a Brigadier and the holder of the DSO and MC from the First World War, who was in civilian dress, when a very handsome young officer in uniform, mounted on horseback, came towards us. My father doffed his hat nearly to the ground with the salutation, "Good morning, Sir." "Since when," I asked, slightly annoyed, "have you addressed a mere major as Sir?"

Realism on the shop floor

From the Director General, Institute of Directors

Sir, almost 12 months ago Mrs Thatcher's Government took office with the clearest possible mandate to end the imbalance of industrial power in favour of the trade union leadership.

The public demand during this period that union power must be

responsibly exercised has been matched by a new realism on the shop floor.

It cannot be predicted how long this mood will hold, but it would be astonishing if the Government's legislative programme failed to take advantage of it in the fullest measure. This is why business leaders look to the present Employment Bill for significant progress: on secret ballots: on review ballots for the closed shop; and to draw back the iron curtain of financial rewards behind which trade unions shelter from the economic consequences of irresponsible

Such pocketers of resentment, and other genuine opponents who find cause to complain of a system that they would like to reject outright, must not be forgotten in seeing the gradual completion of a China reshaped by Mr Deng. After his second rehabilitation in 1977 it was only too easy to posit a confrontation, if not a "power struggle" between Mr Deng and Mr Hua Guofeng who had, visibly and unmistakably, climbed to power behind the scenes of the economic consequences of irresponsible

Businessmen asked to select one of these as highest priority would undoubtedly choose secret ballots.

Industrial relations must be conducted on a basis of consent and not coercion. Only compulsory and secret ballots open to trades union members can provide a satisfactory consensus basis.

He began by correcting the

excessive economic plans which were far beyond China's competence.

Only then did he turn to

skillful handling of the obstacles that remained, especially the Maoist following still with seats in the party political bureau.

They have now all been edged out without disgrace or calamity.

They have been replaced either

by the more able members of the

rehabilitated old guard or by

newcomers to the highest rank

such as Mr Zhao Ziyang. Mr Zhao was already a spokesman for a mixed economy even before his tour of western Europe last summer. If his present appointment makes him Mr Deng's choice as future Prime Minister, leaving the party leadership to Mr Hua, then indeed the new China will bear Mr Deng's stamp. It should last for some time without disturbance.

Yours truly,

WALTER GOLDSMITH,
Institute of Directors,
115 Pall Mall, SW1.

April 21.

late-night strikes

From Mr Roland Jack

Sir, London Transport staff understandably wish to protest against the increase in violence on the Underground system. Yet what action could be more conducive to

strike and the stranding of

passengers by late-night strikes?

Yours faithfully,

ROLAND JACK,
21 Sound-on-the-Green,
Chiswick, W4.

April 14.

Teachers' pay

From Mr A. D. Wood

Sir, One could almost hear the sharp intake of breath from the nation when the Clegg report's figures for teachers' pay were announced. The increase, stated in raw figures of percentages, looks very generous and some teachers have hardly endeared themselves to the public by withdrawing their goodwill or demonstrating noisily before the Secretary of State.

However, neither your news items nor your leader yesterday (April 15) adequately stressed that, even with the rise, a teacher's starting pay is still quite shockingly low. If the Clegg recommendations are implemented, a graduate, trained over four years and amongst the top 15 per cent of the population in academic terms, will still receive less than £55 a week take-home pay. There are no "brings home" in teaching, no raised mortgage, no tax allowances, no association with expenses in most authorities, no luncheon vouchers: the pay packet is all. Granted there are long holidays but Clegg rightly points out that these are offset by a longer working week in term time.

As a headmaster, I am aware that good teachers are leaving the profession, even in the South-west, where conditions are good, for no other reason than that their pay is insufficient and the career prospects are too long-term and indefinite to be attractive. Many of those leaving are from physics, mathematics and crafts since the alternative pay structure in industry are vastly more attractive.

If this Government intends to improve the standard of education in this country and especially in the technical field, then it must offer teachers a better pay structure. A teacher must be paid a salary which reflects his or her training and responsibility. How many industrial workers will be satisfied with a take-home pay packet of £55 a week in 1980?

Yours faithfully,

A. D. WOOD,
Headmaster,
Liskeard School,
Liskeard, Cornwall.

April 18.

More haste

From Mr Colin Winifred

Sir, When Bernard Levin fulfills his promise to make his next journey from Agra to Delhi as a bullock cart passenger (April 17) he will surely delight the ghost of a local physician who wrote to the *Bath Argus* in the eighteenth century to warn of the perils of modern high-speed travel.

In the 1780s John Palmer had introduced the mail coach, carrying also a few passengers at a higher fare than charged by the existing "slow coaches" and had thereby reduced the time between London and Bath from 3½ days to a mere 1½ hours. The good doctor deplored such unnatural speed and solemnly warned that if the trend continued we should all die of apoplexy.

Yours faithfully,

COLIN L. WINIFRED,
28 Ascot Avenue,
Ealing, W5.

April 18.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The response to Soviet expansion

From Mr Brian Thomas

Sir, Those of us who welcomed *The Cold War as History* when it appeared in 1967 will have been disappointed with Professor Louis Halle's latest reflections (April 10).

In judging whether President Carter deserves support over

Afghanistan, the record, Russian

expansion in the eighteenth and

nineteenth centuries is hardly of

much relevance, if only because

American, British and French

empires were being created at

precisely the same time. The Soviet

record since 1941 is clearly in a

different category. The position

is much more complex than Professor Halle would

have us believe.

By the time George Kennan wrote

his long telegram in February

1946, which, incidentally, unlike

Professor Halle's, he now regards

with "horrified amusement", all

Russia had done was to consolidate

the position in Eastern Europe

offered her by Churchill in his

agreement with Stalin of October 9,

1944, and by James Byrnes in his

endorsement of a Soviet "Monroe

Doctrine" a year later.

</



Christies Year

Increased worldwide sales advances pre-tax profits to record £6.2 million

Results for the year ended 31st December, 1979

| | 1979 £'000 | 1978 £'000 |
|--|---------------|---------------|
| Turnover | 24,848 | 20,103 |
| Profit before taxation | 6,201 | 5,629 |
| Taxation | 3,033 | 3,674 |
| | 3,168 | 2,955 |
| Attributable to minority shareholders | (39) | (24) |
| Profit after taxation and before extraordinary items | 3,129 | 2,931 |
| Extraordinary items | - | (78) |
| Profit after taxation and extraordinary items | 3,129 | 2,853 |
| Dividends | 1,228 | 928 |
| Retained profit | 1,900 | 1,925 |
| Earnings per share | 15.28p | 14.32p |
| Analysis of Sales | | |
| Total worldwide sales | 125,682 | 98,922 |
| Overseas sales | 52,881 | 36,947 |
| U.K. sales | 72,801 | 61,975 |
| Overseas | | |
| Holland | 2,045 | 1,851 |
| Italy | 2,395 | 1,970 |
| Switzerland | 16,393 | 13,199 |
| U.S.A. | 31,783 | 19,885 |
| Australia | 65 | 262 |

The progress of the Group's activities has been maintained during 1979 resulting in auction sale totals of £126 million compared with £99 million in 1978. The plans to increase our sales capacity are now coming to fruition and our principle saleroom in New York goes from strength to strength.

The expansion undertaken during the past three years will be consolidated during 1980 with the object of restoring margins to their former high level. The prospects for the first half-year are good with important sales planned in all our major salerooms.

J. A. Floyd
Chairman.

Christies International Limited

Please send me a copy of your Report and Accounts for 1979.

Name _____

Address _____

Committee rejects compulsory registration of tourist accommodation

Official hotel list plan 'too costly'

By Derek Harris
Commercial Editor

Compulsory registration of tourist accommodation, including all hotels, has been dropped as an option for at least three years by Britain's tourist organisations. Instead present voluntary registration systems will continue, with tourist boards working together towards a consistent classification system for the whole of Britain.

This follows a report yesterday by a consultative committee, chaired by Mr John Beavis of Strathclyde University, which concluded that the time was not ripe for a statutory registration system to be introduced. The case for statutory registration was "not proven", the Beavis committee decided.

The decision is a blow for the Scottish and Welsh Tourist Boards, which have supported the idea of compulsory registration, as the surest way of pro-

viding the public with the full information about tourist accommodation.

The Welsh board backed the idea because of its unhappy experiences with a voluntary system which the board began more than ten years ago. Less than 50 per cent of establishments in Wales have consistently offered details for the board's register, which appears in various publications.

Last year there was only a 40 per cent response out of a total of around 12,000 establishments. To be accepted for the register means a hotel or other establishment offering accommodation has to abide by various minimum standards which are set according to the type of accommodation, ranging from top class hotels to farmhouses.

The English Tourist Board, on the other hand, has supported the idea of voluntary registration, as the surest way of pro-

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Global conference will look to the future with confidence

April 21.—Forecasts of coal production will by 1990 and triple by 2000 will be the focus of the first meeting of the International Coal Industry Ad-Board (CIAB) to be held in Paris this week.

The purpose of the meeting, Tuesday and Friday under the auspices of the International Agency (IEA), is to find a formula for leaders of coal enterprises to dis-advocate the use of coal. The mandate is to advise on "practical steps to remove bottlenecks, rapid world expansion, potential energy source", according to Mr Ulf Lanizke, executive director.

Recent report by Exxon of the United States estimated the supply of coal, including net from the Soviet Union, Europe and China, is by 53 per cent to a total of 26 million tonnes of oil by 1990, million in 1978. By 2000, the total would be the equivalent of 4.2

projects metallurgical coal to grow at a rate of 2% and 3 per cent up to the end of the decade. The demand for electric generation is also expanding, but at lower rates in the last few years of increasing imports of coal and electricity growth

ing the Exxon thermal uses for expected to reverse line and grow at 5 per cent in the 1980s, re-both higher oil prices allowing coal use in areas. greatest constraints on of coal arise from environmental problems and the overcoming them", says, adding that some concern will be re-projected demand to be achieved.

markets Tiddle t at risk

Singapore, April 21.—British businessman, Mr Richard Tarling, today began new court proceedings in an attempt to clear his name over his conviction for company law offences. Mr Tarling appeared in the Court of Appeal, one month after he was freed from Changi Prison, where he was sent last November by Singapore High Court. Although on bail, he had agreed to serve the six-month sentence to speed the appeal process, and won a two-month remission for good behaviour.

Speaking to reporters outside the court, he reassured his innocence and expressed the "firm conviction" that no offences had been committed.

His local lawyer, Mr Howard Cashin, told the court that the trial judge had erred in law and in fact in allowing the case to proceed as the prosecution had not established a prima facie case.

Mr Tarling was convicted on five counts of breaking Singapore company law when he was the chairman of Haw Par Brothers International, a subsidiary of the Slater Walker group.

He was extradited from Britain after a two-year legal battle and his trial in the Singapore High Court lasted 65 days.

The five charges against him were that in the 1972 and 1973 company accounts Haw Par failed to reveal a profit of some \$7m (about £3.18m) which it had made in share trading on the Hong Kong stock market during an exceptional share boom in 1972.

The Slater Walker executives who were running Haw Par devised a scheme to "tuck the massive profit away" in a wholly-owned unit trust, the trial judge had said.

But Mr Cashin today told the court that Mr Tarling, who was in Singapore for only a few days in 1972 and 1973, could not have known all that happened in Haw Par.

The appeal hearing is expected to last five days. Reuter.

The City Offices Company Limited

Extracts from the Report and Accounts for the Year 1979

Pre-tax profits have increased for the fourteenth successive year and exceeded £1.39 million. Dividends paid have been increased from 2.84p per share to 3.00p per share.

The freehold of Sperry House, Bristol was acquired and Voyager House, Poole, a freehold office building was also purchased during the year.

Properties were professionally revalued as at 30 September, 1979 at £29,968,000, producing an unrealised surplus of £10,396,977.

| Summary of Results | Year ended 31st December | 1977 | 1978 | 1979 |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|-------|-------|-------|
| £'000 | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 |
| Profit before Taxation | 1,353 | 1,529 | 1,820 | 1,069 |
| Dividends | 602 | 1,118 | 809 | 732 |
| Profit retained | 397 | 434 | 260 | 456 |
| Earnings per share, net | 2.82p | 3.00p | 3.37p | 3.45p |

A commitment to seek profitable growth worldwide

Extracts from Mr. Daniel Meinertzhagen's Statement.

The Annual General Meeting of Royal Insurance Company Limited will be held in Liverpool on 14th May, 1980.

1979 Results

The total profit before taxation for 1979 fell by £21.5m to £131.5m reflecting a marked downturn in the underwriting result for the year which was a loss of £16.5m compared with a profit of £25.4m in 1978. A contributory factor to the turnaround was the abnormally high level of weather losses. We estimate that these exceeded even the relatively heavy weather losses of 1978 by some £15m, the major part of the increase coming from the United States, United Kingdom and Caribbean.

Competition has remained strong—indeed in some areas it might appear irrational—and we have continued to maintain our policy of resistance to excessive rate cutting. Whilst we are fully aware that this policy has led to some restraint on the rate of increase in our premium income in particular areas and classes of business, we nevertheless firmly intend to maintain our position overall as a leading international company by active development of business wherever we see prospects for profitable growth.

In contrast to the underwriting deterioration, which was not peculiar to our company but affected most of the major insurance markets in the world, we secured a satisfactory growth in investment income from £120.7m to £133.0m, an underlying increase of 18.3% after excluding the effect of exchange rate movements. This, together with good increases in the contributions from long term insurance and from associated companies, produced a not unreasonable profit before tax of £131.5m.

Dividend Recommendation

A final dividend of 13.25p per 25p unit of stock is being recommended, making a total for the year of 21.5p representing an increase of 14.5%. As our record shows we are a company which has a progressive dividend policy. Our ability to pursue this policy must, however, be consistent with the need to maintain a sufficient level of capital and free reserves to support a growing business and this means retaining a substantial proportion of our profits in the company. In 1979 the overall result was such that we were able not only to maintain our dividend policy but also to transfer £48.6m to reserves.

Exchange Control

Whilst the exchange control authorities in the United Kingdom have always been most understanding towards the needs of insurance companies because of the valuable contribution they make to the United Kingdom balance of payments, I welcome the total abolition of the regulations. This has enabled us to repay some of the foreign borrowings which, under those regulations, we made for the purpose of expanding in overseas markets and which, otherwise, we would not necessarily have made.

More importantly perhaps, we shall have a greater degree of flexibility and fewer inhibitions when considering our worldwide planning in future.



Life Business

The life fund will be valued annually from 1980 instead of triennially. To pave the way for this change we carried out a transitional valuation covering two years 1978 and 1979. The change to an annual basis will give both our policyholders and stockholders the benefit of the most up-to-date valuation and declaration of surplus from our increasingly important life operation. We strongly support the continuing practice of successive Governments of allowing policyholders to receive tax relief on those life assurance policies that are maintained in force for a reasonable number of years and which are designed to provide life assurance protection and long term savings.

The Changing Environment

At the start of a new decade it is appropriate to reflect on the 1970's. For Royal Insurance, and the insurance industry as a whole, it has been an era of tremendous change. On the political front we have suffered from nationalisation



Summary of Consolidated Results

| | 1979 £m | 1978 £m |
|--|---------|---------|
| General Insurance Premiums Written | 1,225.1 | 1,220.1 |
| Earnings | -16.5 | 25.4 |
| General Insurance Underwriting Result | 133.0 | 120.7 |
| Investment Income on Stockholders' and General Insurance Funds | 7.7 | 4.4 |
| Stockholders' Long-term Insurance Profits | 7.3 | 2.5 |
| Share of Associated Companies' Profits | 131.5 | 153.0 |
| Profit before taxation | 56.8 | 64.5 |
| UK and Overseas Taxation | 74.7 | 88.5 |
| Balance of Stockholders' Long-term Insurance Profits 1975/78 | 7.2 | — |
| Minority Interests | 81.9 | 88.5 |
| Net Profit attributable to the Company (per 25p unit of stock) | 81.0 | 88.2 |
| (53.9p) (58.7p) | | |
| Appropriations | | |
| Dividends | | |
| Supplementary for previous year | — | 0.2 |
| Interim | 12.4 | 10.9 |
| Proposed Final | 20.0 | 17.3 |
| | 32.4 | 28.2 |
| Total (per 25p unit of stock) | 32.4 | 28.4 |
| (21.5p) (18.9p) | | |
| Provision for Employee Share Scheme | — | 0.4 |
| Transfer to Retained Profits | 48.6 | 59.4 |

and faced growing nationalism in some parts of the world. There has been an increase in governmental involvement from rate-making processes and a growth of regulation of our business. At the same time the boundaries between private and state insurance have shifted, generally in the direction of the latter.

An important aspect of social change has been the growth of consumerism. This we have learnt to live with but we are disturbed by the general lowering of standards of conduct reflected by increases in crime such as burglary, vandalism and arson. This change in behavioural pattern has, I believe, had a more profound effect on our business than may have been generally recognised.

Furthermore, economic circumstances have meant that we have had to operate in an environment where inflation has at times accelerated rapidly and in the last few years in many parts of the world has reached unprecedentedly high levels.

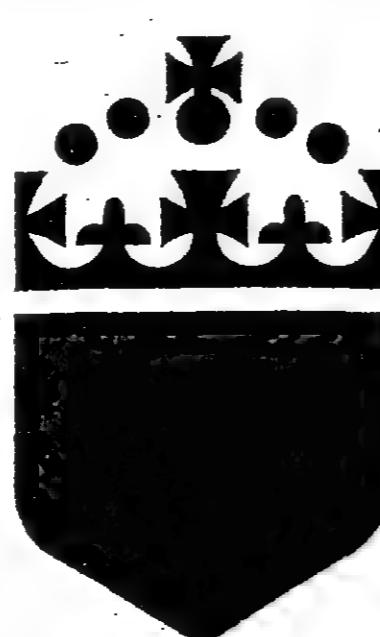
The fact that our Group has been able to respond successfully to these challenges and has emerged well placed to face the future is due in no small part to the firm and dedicated leadership of Mr K M Bevins

who has been our chief general manager for the past ten years. I am sure stockholders will join me in wishing him a happy retirement from this exacting post. I am glad we shall continue to benefit from his advice as a non-executive director.

The outlook for the 1980's would suggest that they will prove to be no less difficult and we are fortunate that in our new chief general manager, Mr J J Howard, and his executive colleagues we have a team which will be more than equal to the challenge.

Staff and Agents

I would also like to take this opportunity on behalf of stockholders and the Board to thank our staff for their readiness to participate fully in the changes which have taken place. It is our objective to run a successful insurance business. The cornerstone of this objective is the knowledge and experience of our management, staff and agents around the world whose dedication and enthusiasm is our most valuable asset.



Royal Insurance

Please send me a copy of the Report and Accounts for the year ending December 31st, 1979.

Name _____

Address _____

To: Registrar's Dept, Royal Insurance Company Ltd., New Hall Place, Old Hall Street, Liverpool L69 3EN.



Researchers find poor economic prospects for synthetic substitutes

Costly future of alternative fuels

A bleak future for energy costs was forecast by Dr Frederick Clarke, the research director (energy) of Harwell laboratory last night.

Nothing can be done to prevent synthetic fuel substitutes for natural gas and oil from costing much more in real terms than at present if only because of the higher processing costs. Dr Clarke said in a lecture to the all-party Parliamentary Liaison Group for Alternative Energy Strategies.

Substitute natural gas from coal will probably cost about 50p a therm delivered against natural gas at, say, 23p a therm in 1979, according to Dr Clarke. Synthetic liquids will cost much the same to produce.

The alternative of replacing natural gas directly by electricity would cost more than 100p a therm delivered. Limited quantities of electricity will

be available at the cheaper off-peak prices.

The effects of these fuel price rises can be offset to some extent by investing in more efficient equipment to convert the fuel, or in insulation. For example, investing in a gas-fired heat pump will probably provide much cheaper space heating than using substitute natural gas in a gas-fired central heating boiler.

Dr Clarke said that although the emphasis would be on heating systems and not just fuels, "these systems will not be able to return us to the present comparatively cheap costs of meeting our needs for heat".

At present, the total cost of space and water heating for a typical semi-detached house is about £350 a year in 1979 prices.

Even with improved insulation and new heat pumps that cost is likely to rise to about £500 a year in equivalent prices when natural gas runs out,

according to Harwell calculations. Even to achieve these figures there will have to be greater emphasis on investment in more efficient capital equipment.

In industry, commerce and institutions the handling and strong disadvantages of coal will probably be less apparent than for domestic users.

Although coal will also be more expensive, the general assumption is that it is the only option which is anywhere near today's oil and gas costs. Dr Clarke concluded that the incentive for using fuel substitutes should be high.

Examining the main renewable energy sources, Harwell scientists regard so-called passive heating as the most promising solar energy technology for the United Kingdom. Typically houses are built facing south, and have large areas of double glazing. Installation periods are frequently sought.

ports and we have an idea of the damaging effects on jobs and the lives of our people. And yet, the Government is not prepared to do anything about it, because, and I quote from a reply to me from the Prime Minister's office on this question: "I do not think it would be right to consider legislative action under the Trade Descriptions Act, 1968, to compel these cards to be marked on the basis of what are primarily trade protection arguments. Such a course would almost certainly run us into difficulty in relation to an international obligation". "Trade protection" and "international obligation" — what about the protection of our jobs and the obligation to the British people?

He is so right, but there needs to be a label on the goods in the first place to look for. The problem we are facing in the paper and printing industry is that people are buying imported paper, greetings cards and books and do not even know that they are imported. This is because there is no country of origin printed on these goods and furthermore no legal requirement to do so.

The effect has been—as we have seen with the massive import of Russian greetings cards over the past year—employees in the industry being made redundant. Over 40 of the members I represent have been made redundant as a direct result of the Russian cards coming into the UK. Multiply that up in the rest of the card manufacturing business in this country, and the other areas of unmarked im-

Patricia Tisdall

Stabilizing Third World goods prices

From Mr Larry Trimby

Such is the idea behind the system outlined by L. Clare Grondina in his book *Economic Stability is Attainable* (Hutchinson, Bembridge 1975) which received power support from Sir Roy Harrrison, adviser to the International Monetary Fund.

The system envisages formation of a United Kingdom price stabilization corporation to stand ready to buy or to commodity as offered to it demanded of it. On no account would it intervene in the market; hence its difference operation from that of a buffer stock.

An initial reference price is given to a commodity based on the previous five-year average; the corporation stands ready to buy at 10 per cent below reference price and, when it holds stocks, sell at 10 per cent above. This is a floor to the market created close to the low point and, when stock is held, a ceiling close to the high point.

Each commodity is given block volume roughly equivalent to the United Kingdom imports of that commodity one month. As each block accumulated so the buying selling prices are automatically reduced by 5 per cent; as number of blocks reduce prices reverse by 5 per cent.

The corporation would deal in sterling hence, primary objective would be to stabilize sterling and prices industrial users in the United Kingdom. It this object could be attained, then would go some way toward bringing economic stability producers, which, in turn, would encourage overseas investment.

The benefits of this system to the developing countries have been well put by Professor Lord Kishor: "Mr Grondina's proposal would create powerful automatic stabilizers for adjusting the growth demand to the growth of supplies of primary products through its repercussions the effective demand for industrial goods... in the long run it is the supply of basic materials which would set limits to the rate of growth world industrial production a not, as now, the rate of growth of effective demand, emanating from the advanced countries which governed the trend of growth of investment's production of primary commodities."

Yours faithfully,
PETER KENT,
38 Rodney Road,
West Bridgford,
Nottingham,
KINGSLEY DUNHAM,
Charlecroft,
Quarryheads Lane,
Durham,
April 9.

Unmarked imports and job losses

From Miss Brenda Dean

Sir. I was interested to read the letter (April 11) from Mr K. G. Williams of the Federation of Clothing Designers and Executives and his plea to educate people to look for that label "Made in the UK".

He is so right, but there needs to be a label on the goods in the first place to look for. The problem we are facing in the paper and printing industry is that people are buying imported paper, greetings cards and books and do not even know that they are imported. This is because there is no country of origin printed on these goods and furthermore no legal requirement to do so.

The effect has been—as we have seen with the massive import of Russian greetings cards over the past year—employees in the industry being made redundant. Over 40 of the members I represent have been made redundant as a direct result of the Russian cards coming into the UK.

Multiply that up in the rest of the card manufacturing business in this country, and the other areas of unmarked im-

Labelling origin of goods

From Mr J. C. Macchesney

Sir, I was very interested to read the letter from Mr K. G. Williams in today's issue of The Times, in which he asks us to check that the garments and other products we buy are made in the United Kingdom. I strongly support this attitude, but may I draw attention to the fact that many products and packs are not marked with an indication of origin?

A few examples serve to show that practice varies. ICI paint is marked "Made in Great Britain", but Woolworth's paint does not carry a declaration of origin. Many Unilever products do not show where they were made, but Colgate-Palmolive seems commendable in its statement that its products are made in England. Presumably, imported cars are labelled somewhere, but I have met people who say they are unsure whether

Ford cars they drive were made in England or Germany.

No doubt companies are complying with the Trade Descriptions Act 1972, which set out to remove ambiguity about imported goods which might be taken to be British made. Where there is a risk of confusion, imported goods must be marked to show their origin. There does not appear to be any legal requirement to declare the origin of British made goods sold on the home market, and I do not suggest that there should be.

However, it would be helpful—and indeed fundamental to a "Buy British" campaign—if British-made goods were marked to tell us so. Yours faithfully,
J. C. MACCHESNEY,
67 Hazelwood Road,
Hurst Green,
Oxford,
Surrey, RH8 0JA.

Minerals exploration

From Sir Peter Kent and Sir Kingsley Dunham

Sir, The correspondence on British mineral resources which followed our letter of January 9 has shown how widely held is the view that our natural metallic mineral resources should be evaluated and in due course developed.

There is a wide difference of opinion about how this could best be fostered, and we emphasize that our advocacy of nationalization (we repeat, of undiscovered reserves) was made with the object of stimulating discussion on the best way of breaking the log-jam of inactivity.

Those who oppose this might perhaps formulate alternative procedures. A Bill was indeed prepared after wide departmental consultation with owners and industry which would have facilitated access where ownership was complex or obscure, but without recourse to national ownership.

This Bill, however, failed to win Parliamentary time during the later stages of the first Wilson Government, and was not proceeded with by the Heath Government. We have no doctrinaire prejudices in favour of nationalization, but we are aware (pace Mr. Seymour (January 19) and Mr. Holland (March 19)) that in the hydrocarbon field landowners have been notably lacking in exploration initiatives.

Following the 1918-1922 government mining programme, the Duke of Devonshire alone followed discovery by further drilling at Hardstoft in Derbyshire—it took the government-sponsored nationalization of undiscovered resources in 1934.

Postal Giro and bank accounts

From Mr A. Reynolds

Sir, Perhaps because the commercial banks dominate retail banking in the United Kingdom, Adrienne Gleeson has insinuatedly surveyed the commercial banks abroad for her article on foreign bank accounts (April 5).

But in much of Western Europe it would be at least as common for a resident to have an account with the giro system run by their Post Office as with a commercial bank. In France, for example, seven million people have postal giro accounts whilst in the Netherlands it is estimated 30 per cent of the population does so.

By contrast, the figures for the United Kingdom are around 300,000 and 2 per cent. I now hold postal giro accounts in five European countries and can testify to their cheapness and convenience.

The charges made for cashing cheques at post offices are very modest. The Swiss, Danes and Dutch charge nothing whilst the Norwegians and Swedes just 6p and 14p respectively per cheque. None requires a minimum balance.

Crucial to the outcome of US Steel's complaint is whether the Commission will lump together the impact of steel sold by the seven European countries. US Steel argues that the European Community acts as a single entity in its steel export policies and should be considered as a block. Steel production up:

GROVEWOOD SECURITIES

£13.2 MILLION PRE-TAX PROFIT FOR 1979

INCREASE OF £2 MILLION

● Turnover £137m (£107m 1978)

● Exports £26m (£21m 1978)

John Danny, Chairman and Chief Executive, announces a record profit for the 12th consecutive year.

This success is due to the quality of the people who run our businesses. Entrepreneurs sell to us part of their shareholdings, retaining management control, and then dispose of the balance over periods suitable to them. These happy and prosperous "partnerships" are what Grovewood is all about.

Substantial funds are available for investment. Enquiries are welcomed.

10 YEAR PROFIT RECORD

| | £ million | £ million | |
|------|-----------|-----------|-------|
| 1979 | 13.230 | 1974 | 3.279 |
| 1978 | 11.235 | 1973 | 2.805 |
| 1977 | 7.160 | 1972 | 1.945 |
| 1976 | 5.646 | 1971 | .912 |
| 1975 | 3.667 | 1970 | .626 |

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BUILDING MATERIALS, TELEVISION, ELECTRICAL
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A MEMBER OF EAGLE STAR GROUP

Researchers find poor economic prospects for synthetic substitutes

Costly future of alternative fuels

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Examining the main renewable energy sources, Harwell scientists regard so-called passive heating as the most promising solar energy technology for the United Kingdom. Typically houses are built facing south, and have large areas of double glazing. Installation periods are frequently sought.

New savings body aimed at the young

The Scottish Money Management Association, the natural successor to the defunct National Savings Committee for Scotland, officially came into being yesterday. Its aim is to strengthen the awareness and importance of financial matters to young people in Scotland.

The study was carried out by Atkins Research and Development, the Epsom-based consultants, with the Medina Yacht Company of Cowes and others. It investigated the use of a modern, vertical-axis wind turbine mounted on the deck of a ship which could convert wind energy into both mechanical power and direct thrust, according to wind conditions.

Wolfson Marine Craft Unit at Southampton University, Reading University, and the shipping company. The report was coordinated by the National Maritime Institute.

Timekeeping by temperature

The American-based Bulova watch company has perfected a miniature cell capable of generating electricity caused by differences in temperature.

The device, developed at the company's Bielane plant in Switzerland, is the result of three years' research and development by the watch manufacturers and although the unit could have many applications it will be used at first to power quartz watches.

The cell is called a thermoelectric generator and is able to harness the temperature of the body to provide between 8 and 12 microvolts which is at least a factor of three times the power necessary to drive a quartz watch.

The design has completed its initial test trials successfully in larger men's watches. No experiments have yet been conducted in smaller women's watches although Bulova is confident that such developments will take place in the near future.

The company is convinced the discovery will give it an edge in a competitive market for which Bulova already manufactures about 3.5 million watches annually to and gives a turnover of \$210m.

By trading-off these fuel savings against the extra cost of running the turbine, the report concluded that the concept was economically viable on windiest routes. However, much more work would be needed to obtain practical experience of operation and control.

Working with the Atkins team on the project were staff from the yacht company, the

Technology News

This sort of turbine which would enable a vessel to head directly into wind, although slowly, was proposed by Air Commodore C. T. Nance of the Medina Yacht Company.

All the members have been asked to contribute £2,000 initially to help to establish the new organization. But what is needed most Dr D. M. McIntosh, the secretary, says is "enthusiasm and interest".

A research project into the effect of teaching money management concepts in primary schools has already begun.

A Money Management Association for England and Wales is planned, but it is taking longer to get off the ground.

Nexos in Germany

Nexos, the National Enterprise Board's office systems subsidiary, is to set up a German offshore later this year with headquarters in Frankfurt. This is in addition to the marketing arrangement with Göran Waerner and Tornimex Mart covering Scandinavia, Benelux, Switzerland and Austria.

Oil markup protest

American oil companies were marking up their oil prices by more than 400 per cent, Senator Ernest Hollings claimed in Washington. He said a survey showed a production cost of £2.14 for a barrel selling at \$10.40.

Buses from MAN

M.A.N. announced in Munich a DM 165m (£38m) contract for 609 double deck buses for Baghdad, Iraq; a DM 100m (£24m) contract for 210 buses in Seattle, United States; and a DM 6.5m (£1.5m) contract for 60 buses and 20 chassis for Auckland, New Zealand.

BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

Institutional cash and the equity market

ck market had some difficulty yes-
digesting the £16m to £20m worth of
from the liquidation of City & Inter-
Trust whose take-over was approved
day by Guthrie shareholders. Taking
count the selling and the buying the
presented about half the turnover of
equity market and was enough to
prices.

alone show how difficult it would
use fresh money for the funding of
pressed corporate sector at the

pointers are the recent
United Biscuits, which was placed
difficulty, and Rugby Portland
which had to pay well over the odds
privilege of bolstering its equity

itions are flush with cash but with
eze on companies on the one hand
attractions of money markets on the
of them are still loath to com-
melves to ordinary shares and are
wait and see attitude.

year institutions took in some
in cash of which some £5.700m
in giles, £2.100m in shares and
1.000m each in property and over-
is year an institutional cash flow is
be at least £11,500m while the
set to fall.

on forces working capital require-
p while the strong pound inhibits
and promotes competition from im-
der these circumstances companies
gh working capital requirements
engineering motors and textile
e under pressure.

one of them the situation is likely
as dramatic as that prevailing in
4. For the corporate sector as a
ne net borrowing requirement is
almost treble from £2,200m in 1978
6,000m last year. Bank credits will
e, provide some of the money but
nger run institutions will be looked
ing up the capital base. The ques-
ill they do it?

of institutional money comes from
funds and insurance companies
t trusts getting less when the
ak and investment trusts contribut-
little. While the major institutions
their liabilities in sterling nothing
most of them from dabbling in
markets. Many might indeed be
to do so instead of propping up
may consider bad risks in the
long run.

one reason why the flow of funds
use gap arguments in favour
es might not be as strong as they
be. To some extent we are in
vators. In the past a reverse yield
round 7 per cent and going up to
7 per cent with end year dividend
would be a sign of the market
bottom out and the 1974 experi-
t, a 7 per cent yield on equities
a promising start for recovery.

ne can say for sure now and the
that any recovery in shares will
down by large scale rights issues
utes relatively unattractive.

At the last balance sheet date this had
fallen to 43 per cent, and interest charges
to trading profits had dropped from a high
of 60 per cent in 1975 to 23 per cent. Even
that understates the true picture since
around half Grand Met's £1,250m capital
employed is represented by high quality
process assets, some £380m of which were
last revalued at 1975 or before.

Grand Met is financing Liggett mainly
through the \$350m Euromarket facility it
has arranged through Barclays and NatWest,
which will increase net borrowings from
just over £300m to £550m including Liggett's
debt raising gearing, assuming some \$150m
of goodwill in the price, to the £5.70 per
cent region.

This may well be reduced substantially
if Grand Met sells off, as seems likely, part
of the Liggett interests, but it still repre-
sents a reversal of the trends in the balance
sheet which have helped make the group
an institutional favourite over the past
couple of years. Interest costs are already
starting to work in Grand Met's favour.

But assuming 20 per cent interest on the
Euromarket borrowing financing costs
would only just be covered by Liggett's
profits last year of £87.7m. The group's
property assets can sustain a higher level of
debt these days but the financial benefits
of the acquisition will need to be more
clearly spelt out to convince shareholders
that Grand Met is not paying too high a
price to protect its whisky franchise, which
seems the main object of the exercise.

cost £323,000 in 1978, not to mention
unrelieved ACT where the group has a
problem.

However, the balance sheet is in reason-
able shape despite the losses. Net borrowings
only rose by just over £1m, leaving gearing
unchanged at 42 per cent. Cash flow should
match outgoings in 1980 and the group
expects profits to recover to 1978's £2.5m.

The board will only say of the dividend
cut that it "does not envisage the continu-

ation of such a policy". Presumably this
means some restoration in 1980.

There is an obvious case for not paying
dividends out of capital. But equally, if a
company cannot produce the goods, why not
do so and let shareholders re-invest the
proceeds elsewhere? Revertex will have to
justify this dividend cut with future per-
formance.

Grand Metropolitan Financing Liggett

Grand Metropolitan still has some legal
hurdles to jump yet after yesterday's events
in the Delaware Court before it can get on
with the serious business of its \$415m tender
offer for the United States Liggett Group.

This has already started to arouse some
worries about the impact on the group's
gearing, particularly as the acquisition coincides
with a period when internal cash
generation is coming under pressure from
a quiet outlook for profits, notably on the
holidays side.

Since the conversion of the outstanding
£124m loan stock two years ago and last
year's £78m rights issue, Grand Met's financial
gearing has been transformed. Three
years ago borrowings as a proportion of
shareholders' funds had risen to more than
150 per cent, leaving it uncomfortably
exposed to the vagaries of interest rates.

At the last balance sheet date this had
fallen to 43 per cent, and interest charges
to trading profits had dropped from a high
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price to protect its whisky franchise, which
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Business Diary: Unilever's best seller • Steel spies



"The union is prepared to go to arbitration provided that Clegg and a few teachers are the arbiters."

Caribbean banking is an
expression which tends to
conjure up images of Robert
Vesco, IOS and the routing of
money acquired in suspicious
circumstances to undermine tax
and exchange control regulations.

J. Adams, Prime Minister of
Barbados and the island's
Finance Minister, is out to
change that. He is on record as
saying that the country's banking
aspirations will not be
based on "gimmickry" nor
would it allow the island's
banking to be used to "launder
illegitimate gains".

Yesterday he was less
than forthcoming about Mrs
Thatcher's attempts to house-
train the masses. "I cannot
comment on that", he said, in
response to *Business Diary's*
questions on the Employment
Bill. "You really cannot expect
me to."

Sir Campbell is obviously
mindful of the fact that there
promises to be what is known
in the business as "a major
backbench revolt" this
week. The company to feel that
the Bill does less than justice to the
promises of forthright action
contained in the election
manifesto.

Despite all the usual tax
incentives, including a favourable
withholding tax arrangement,
most City people yesterday
however, still seemed to be
looking on Barbados as a winter
holiday haven.

Now chairman of the chemicals group, Revertex, which announced results yesterday, he, did make one remark which is likely to be noted by those within the Conservative camp who see it as their duty to track down "wets". He confessed to a great admiration for Jim Prior. Surprise, surprise.

While the case involving confidential British Steel documents used in a Granada television documentary continues in the High Court, one of the country's largest stockholders is lamenting the loss of "steel papers" of its own.

Sir Campbell Adamson is obviously a man who learns from his past. He was the director-general of the CBI and made some caustic remarks about the Heath Government and the Industrial Relations Act during the miners' strike of 1974, which some blame for the downfall of the Tories.

Yesterday he was less than forthcoming about Mrs Thatcher's attempts to house-train the masses. "I cannot comment on that", he said, in response to *Business Diary's* questions on the Employment Bill.

Sir Campbell is obviously mindful of the fact that there promises to be what is known in the business as "a major backbench revolt" this week.

The company to feel that the Bill does less than justice to the promises of forthright action contained in the election manifesto.

Real meaning of the Biffen 'heresy'

Hugh Stephenson

Mr John Biffen, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, is an unusual politician. He is associated with firm and unorthodox views. In this mood he is further unusual in being prepared to follow through the logic of his arguments in public, even when this leads him to conclude, for example, that unemployment is bound to rise substantially or that the country faces three years of unparalleled austerity.

It is unlikely, however, that Mr Biffen would have been making such a direct attack on the reigning theory as has been suggested.

The Government having taken huge political decisions in 1979 in order to bring the rate of growth of the money stock within prescribed limits, by raising minimum lending rate to 14 per cent in June and 17 per cent in November, it would indeed be extraordinary if Mr Biffen were calling into question the whole purpose of the exercise just at the moment when it looked as if it was producing the required results.

It is much more likely that he was trying to make a much more important point for the benefit of the Prime Minister and some of those about her.

Mr Biffen rightly senses that Mrs Thatcher believes that prices will automatically follow the rate of growth of money supply, with admittedly a variable time lag, but one which for all that will be about 18 months to two years. He is concerned that when 1980 turns to 1981 and there is no proper sign that the level of inflation is coming down to the low teens in percentage terms, the politician in Mrs Thatcher will grow impatient for results. His message from Edinburgh was that control of the money supply was a necessary, but not a sufficient, condition for getting inflation under control.

The fact that there have been voices about telling the Prime Minister that it was not only a sufficient condition, but implying that it was also relatively less painful than other possible ways of getting the same result, needs in Mr Biffen's view to be countered.

The risk, from his point of view, is that in 1981 the money supply baby could get thrown out with the bath water. For some, some others, Mr Biffen is fully aware of the likely consequences of what he wants and he is prepared to face them. He is right to doubt whether a government coming to the mid-point of a Parliament with output falling, unemployment rising and inflation showing signs of giving would maintain his intellectual and political consistency in the crisis.

The central question for the rest of this year for the British economy is whether in 1980 the conditions have been created for a steady and rapid inflation without the kind of prolonged domestic recession that destabilizes society and causes the disintegration of governments. The monetary and fiscal framework within which the conditions will be established have now effectively been set by the March Budget. The Government's fiscal posture is if anything rather more deflationary than most people immediately saw at the time.

The eventual outcome is now only partly in even the theoretical control of the Chancellor. If the rate of inflation, particularly oil and other commodity prices rises again substantially over the next twelve months, nothing can practically be done on the domestic front will prevent the retail price index continuing at unacceptable high levels. If the recession in the United States comes through in 1980 with anything like the intensity that is now daily looking more likely, it is equally inconceivable that the

British economy can get through to a better price performance without its own major recession.

Even with a recession, the Government will still have to be much clearer about its attitude to pay settlements in the public sector than it has been in this round. The evidence of what has been happening is even less clear than usual, which allows policy makers to say for the time being that they are not sure that things are going as well as the commentators are making out. It would be very surprising if average settlements for this year in the private sector turned out to be less than 10 per cent higher than last year. In the public sector as a whole they are clearly substantially higher still. They are highest of all in the area of central government employment, where the administration seems to have drifted helplessly through 1979.

The action that the announcement of

strict monetary targets would somehow

cast a shadow of "rational expectations" before the event, causing the whole economy to kick the habit of inflation, was beguiling, but has not

stood the test of practical experience.

Since the Government is directly and indirectly in such a dominant position in the economy, it can stand by and allow free collective bargaining to settle wage levels does not correspond to the real world. If it is to avoid being driven into a lurch back to a formal incomes policy in 1981, we have to think out a policy for public sector pay at least for the next pay round that is something more than shuffling off responsibility to the Clegg Commission and to Pay Research Units.

Steel: how 'jishu kanri' helps Japan

Kimitsu, Japan

The Kimitsu works of Nippon Steel Corporation, the world's largest steel-making company, is the sort of carefully planned, highly automated coastal steel plant which fired the imagination of British Steel Corporation strategists in the late 1960s.

The vision of Sir Monty Finniston, the former BSC chairman, have become a nightmare to his successor, Sir Charles Villiers. At Kimitsu and at Japan's other major steel-making centres, the vision has become a reality.

Japanese steel production in 1979 rose by nearly 10 per cent compared to the previous year, to 11.17 million tonnes, still far short of the peak reached earlier in the seventies, and the signs are that the steel companies have more than successfully readjusted to an era of lower than expected growth and high energy costs. At Kimitsu and elsewhere the drive towards even greater efficiency is unrelenting.

It has not all been plain sailing. The quadrupling of oil prices and the drop in world steel demand have both been felt in Japan. Kimitsu is still operating at only about 70 per cent of its capacity of 10 million tonnes a year. Plans for a further expansion to about 15 million tonnes were shelved long ago.

But significantly, the works last year produced 7.3 million tonnes of crude steel with a total labour force of 16,500.

That performance is something which the British Steel Corporation and the steel industry unions should reflect upon as the talks on the BSC's re-trenchment programme gather momentum. This involves a cut in capacity to 15 million tonnes and a reduction of 30,000 in the labour force.

With its 16,500 labour force of direct and indirect employees (those employed by sub-contractors who are a constant feature of Japanese industry), output per man last year from the Kimitsu plant was 442.2 tonnes.

The BSC has never produced comparisons of productivity with Japan and its officials stress that methods of compiling productivity figures in individual countries may be totally different. But during the steel dispute the BSC said that in comparison with France and Germany output per man in Britain was 141 tonnes a year.

Mr Koichi Tagiri, general

manager in charge of steel making at Kimitsu says: "We have no natural resources of oil and coal in Japan. Our most important resource is our people. Increasingly better educated people who work in this industry have a pride in working for it because so important to the rest of Japan's manufacturing industry."

The sort of pride, dedication and commitment shown itself in a variety of ways, but two are especially noteworthy. First, there has been continued growth of *jishu kanri*, literally voluntary self management activity and, secondly, there has been sustained investment in new processes, especially in continuous casting of steel.

jishu kanri has blossomed in the steel companies to a point where there are now almost 32,000 "JK" circles and groups scattered throughout the industry. Kimitsu alone has 900 such groups, which produce thousands of ideas and suggestions (many of them based on discussions carried on outside working time) covering safety, cost reduction and improved efficiency.

The "JK" phenomenon is often overlooked by Japan's

By means of continuous casting and other measures finished

steel yields are being increased. At Kimitsu, which now has two blast furnaces in operation, finished steel production last year totalled 6.3 million tonnes.

The second machine, commissioned last month, is producing at a rate of 70,000 tonnes a month and by August will be operating at a rate of 210,000 tonnes.

Mr Tagiri and his management colleagues have drawn up plans to install a third continuous casting unit at Kimitsu, which, when operational in 1983, will lift the proportion of continuously cast steel at the plant to about 90 per cent.

Across the rest of the Japanese steel industry the switch to continuous casting has been extensive and now accounts for about 53 per cent of production. By the end of this year it is expected to rise to about 60 per cent, a level which forecasts made three years ago suggested might not be reached until 1990. This is about three times higher than the figures for the United Kingdom and the United States steel industries.

Peter Hill

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The Randfontein Estates Gold Mining Company, Witwatersrand, Limited

(Incorporated in the Republic of South Africa)

FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Stock markets

Confidence pushes gilts higher on exhaustion of Exchequer tap

The final week of the account began on a fairly subdued note yesterday with prices drifting between narrow levels.

Gilts again turned in a reasonably strong performance helped by the exhaustion of the tap Exchequer 3 per cent 1983. But the lead that the rest of the market expected gilts to provide failed to materialize, leaving equities to mark time.

Oils, however, came in for more inquiry from both home and overseas, by speculation among the second liners and reports among the majors that Iran might attempt to sell its oil to Eastern European countries.

Weekend press comment had led to a fairly firm start to trading with the FT index showing a rise of 10 at 10 am, aided by the decision to return to work at 11.

But news that the City and International Trust had gone into liquidation following approval for a takeover from Guthrie shareholders last week soon poured cold water on things. Reports that brokers had disposed of shares in City and International valued at between £16m and £20m, which accounted for about half of the market's total turnover, unnerved the rest of the market.

So after managing to keep its head above water for most of the session the index closed 1.6 off at 441.1 after profit taking on small amounts of nervous selling.

Gilts enjoyed another active day with some confident buying pushing prices higher across the board. A further reduction in United States prime rates late on Friday was another contributing factor with some observers pointing to a downward movement in United King-

dom interest rates in the not so distant future.

In longs, prices got off to a lively start, rising £1 to £2, although profit taking clipped back some of the gains as the close so that prices on average showed only £1 overall.

Dealers were pleasantly surprised by the market's performance having expected a bout of indigestion after last week's sellout of Treasury 13 1/2 per cent 2004/08 which again improved in partly paid form by £1 to £20.

At the shorter end trading was somewhat quiet even though the tap Exchequer 3 per cent 1984 was soon exhausted, with prices being extended by about £1 to £1 overall. Jobbers no longer expect a fair amount of leeway before the Government broker announces another new issue.

Leading industrials were left rather neglected after the news about London & International Trust, although prices were mainly firmer where changed. The exception proved to be Beechams, which slipped 1p to 119p, ICI at 37p, Unilever at 428p, Dunlop at 56p and Pilkington at 31p remained firm. Rises of 2p were noted in Glaxo at 121p, Fisons at 282p and GKN at 273p. Courtaulds was 1p off at 68p.

In oils the majors were all easier as a result of fears over Iran. However, jobbers reported that the falls were not serious and mainly the result of cautious marking down. Iran now accounts for very little of Britain's oil imports and the market was remaining fairly optimistic. In the event, Shell eased 4p to 348p and BP was 6p lower at 336p.

Ulsterman continued to reap the benefits of the chairman's

recent bullish statement, climbing 18p to 608p, while speculative demand again lifted Lasmo 18p to 526p. Among the second liners Irish sellers clipped 14p from Aran Energy at 325p while Viking Oil eased 5p after hours to 101p.

Others to close off the top included Clyde Petroleum, 2p off at 389p, and Celtic Basin, also down 2p to 190p.

The long-awaited terms from Lamont pushed shares of textile group McCleery L'Amie 8p higher to 19p while late speculative support boosted

Speculators are betting that Blue Circle's £30m bid for Armitage Shanks will get蒙特利尔的清算。Heavy buying of Shanks' last week has taken the price to 71p after a sharp fall when the bid was referred. Both companies are continuing to participate in the commission's investigation, which started in February.

Mallinson-Denny once more. But profit taking left the share price 2p lower on the day at 75p.

Also on the bid front Glaxo jumped 3p to 340p after the cash offer from Greewalk nominees and speculative support provided a fillip for Furness Withy, 15p up at 371p.

Serck recovered 4p to 51p after Rockwell International's recent decision to withdraw from making a bid for the remainder of the capital, but the bleak outlook for Reprost Ceramic left the shares 4p off at 105p and profit taking lowered Sotheby Parke-Bernet 3p to 420p. News of a large overseas contract helped Davy Corporation advance 1p to 88p.

A profits surge at Executives Clothing saw the shares rise 5p to 42p. Favourable results helped EIS 1p to 57p and Maple 2p to 33p. However, the market was not so leased with the profits setback at Revertex with the price slipping 6p to 29p.

Wade Potteries fell 2 to 49p while Waddin closed unchanged at 80p along with London United Investment at 156p. News of improved profits after hours enabled NDW Holdings to improve 1p to 52p.

Renewed speculation that Lomco was set to make another bid inspired House of Fraser to a 5p rise at 122p. Lomco marked time at 50p. Jobbers will expect a bid to be made eventually but are undecided as to by whom and when. Granada again came in for speculative demand, rising 2p to 84p and GUS "A" rose 5p to 29p.

Electricals remained fairly quiet and easier for choice although the jockeying for television franchises directed attention towards some of the TV companies. Grampian firmed 2p to 305p and LWT perked up 6p at 115p. But HTV closed unchanged at 58p.

Banks came in for a little support with prices slightly higher throughout the list. Barclays hardened 3p to 413p and National Westminster rose 1p to 331p. Midland was unchanged at 340p and Lloyds eased 2p to 298p as the bank moneymen's strike continued.

A lower gold bullion price down 15 to £197.50 an ounce did little for mining shares which had a mostly mixed appearance at the close. Vaal Erichs ended 1p higher at 232p along with West Driefontein, 15/16 up at 2911/16. Anglo American Gold finished 1p off at 333p and St Helena drifted up 1p to 314p. At the cheaper end of the market results left Messina unchanged at 195p with Middle Wit 5p lower at 360p as press comment helped Gold 4p to 475p in mining financials.

Equity turnover on April 18 was £80.340m (11,554 bargains). Active stocks, according to the Exchange Telegraph, were Ulsterman, Shell, Tricentrol, IC Gas, Barclays, Lasmo, BAT, Grand Met, 600 Group, GEC, House of Fraser, Imperial Group, Mallinson-Denny, Racial and BAA Group.

Profits slip at Wade Potteries

By Our Financial Staff

Shares in Wade Potteries fell 2 to 49p yesterday on the announcement of an 11 per cent fall in profits in the six months to January 31.

Profits fell from £530,000 to £470,000 on turnover up from £4.7m to £5.6m.

Part of the problem was signalled at the time of the annual statement—the move to a new factory in Scotland. The changeover led to trading losses of £130,000 more than was expected. The move is now completed and, given reasonable trading conditions, the Govancroft operation should be back in profit early in the next year.

Elsewhere Mr Anthony Wade, the chairman, says the companies in the group saw substantially increased profits and capital spending is going according to plan. Demand steady in the period and this allowed the factories to work at full capacity.

However, Mr Wade says the next few months may be more difficult as unsettled trading conditions may affect demand in the short term. At the same time margins will be pressurised by rising costs.

He adds: "Whilst it would be unwise to make a specific forecast for the balance of this financial year, looking further ahead, your group is well placed, both in plant and technical ability, to take full advantage of trading opportunities as they arise."

The interim dividend is 0.714p gross. Last year's total was 2.6p giving a historic yield of 5.3 per cent.

Earnings per share at the half way stage are 3.038p compared with 3.495p last time. The full year total is 10.382p to give a p/e ratio of 4.7.

Mr Daniel Meinertzhagen, the chairman, accepted that this had led to some restraint in premium growth but he

Possible £2.3m bid for McCleery called 'inadequate'

By Philip Robinson

Independent directors of Belfast-based carpet to rope group McCleery L'Amie were swift yesterday to dismiss as "inadequate" a possible £2.3m takeover bid by Lamont Holdings, the engineering and property concern.

Sir Desmond Lorimer, who is chairman of both firms, announced his intention to make an offer for McCleery yesterday afternoon.

Last night a spokesman for the independent, the independent director Mr Douglas Owen, said the price of the intended offer was not enough and detailed reasons for their statement would be given if a formal bid was made.

In a statement last night McCleery said the proposed offer by Lamont had been announced despite lack of agreement between the two companies on appropriate terms.

Until a formal offer was made, shareholders would be advised to take no action.

Sir Desmond is offering three Lamont shares for every four McCleery ordinary shares or a cash alternative of 18p and 10

ordinary shares or £2.50 cash for every £1 preference shares.

McCleery's price in the stock market last night closed 80p up at 15p, a share higher than the £2.3m bid price.

The group has changed its policy on providing for defence tax to comply with SSIAs 15. After adjusting 1978 figures accordingly, earnings per share which are mainly held by private investors in Northern Ireland.

Sir Desmond, who has a director of a dozen companies and chairman of half of them, controls about 300,000 of McCleery's 12.5m issued shares which are mainly held by private investors in Northern Ireland.

Sir Desmond, who has been re-elected Lamont out of the red for the last three years, says that if the bid goes through "some rationalisation may take place within the management and manufacturing activities."

He has already steered the pruning of McCleery's work force from 1,700 to 1,300 and said last night that any further rationalisation "would not mean any significant number of redundancies."

What is catching his eye is McCleery's biggest asset, 20 acres of single-storey factory buildings outside East Belfast which has recently been revalued at £2m, giving the group fixed assets worth £5m.

McCleery made a pre tax loss last year of £33,000 against a profit of £14,000.

Royal resists rate cutting

By Our Financial Staff

Royal Insurance maintained its policy in 1979 of resisting excessive rate cutting in the face of strong and sometimes irrational competition.

The chairman also welcomed the abolition of exchange controls which had enabled Royal to repay foreign borrowings that had been incurred for use in overseas expansion.

pledged the group to remaining a leading international company by active development of business wherever we see prospects for profitable growth."

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New deal for brokers and ECGD

The Export Credit Guarantee Department and Credit Insurance Brokers Committee have agreed on new arrangements for brokers handling business under ECGD guarantees.

The deal is designed to establish good working relationships between the brokers and the ECGD. They should mean an increase in coverage paid by the ECGD.

The ECGD is thought to be satisfied with all the service it is now getting. The new arrangements should, on 1979 figures, cut the sum spent on brokerage from £1.7m to about £1.4m a year.

The commission paid to brokers is to be reduced to 5 and 8 per cent of the premiums payable. Under the new deal the commission will be as much as 10 per cent in the first year, but will have in subsequent ones.

Associated Biscuit aims high

Associated Biscuit Manufacturers, which has around 22 per cent of the domestic biscuit market, has according to Mr Gordon Palmer, chairman, set itself some ambitious targets for 1980. The group's main aim is to increase its market share in North America and Europe, and a big stake in snack foods.

Mr Keith Bright, chief executive, says that margins should widen this year as the consolidation plan moves towards completion. Last year, the group raised profits by more than 28 per cent to £11.5m. It has also spent a lot of money, but the chairman says, on research and development in the first year.

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Recovery expected at Weir

By Our Financial Staff

Firm evidence of recovery and resumed growth is expected this year by Lord Weir, chairman of Glasgow-based engineers Weir Group.

Weir saw profits fall last year from £7.6m to £2.1m and had to draw on its reserves to the tune of £2.4m.

One part of Weir's problems has resulted in an auditor's qualification from Arthur Young & Moore.

This states that a provision of £3.6m for closure costs and

terminal losses relating to OR Founders and Engineers cannot be definitely estimated, though the accountants have "no information which would lead us to disagree with the amount provided".

Lord Weir admits that the 1980 background is not likely to be favourable, with world-wide capital goods demand running at a low level and prices depressed.

He comments: "In present circumstances we must clearly re-think and make every sav-

our competitors. We are not only looking to expand but are actively looking to make sensible use of all kinds of resources of all kinds."

He points out that the closure of two foundries and the valve company mark the start of the economies and "further radical action" in peripheral activities may follow to protect the mainstream.

"With the vigorous action we are taking it will not be long, I trust, before we return to a better level of profitability and to a healthier financial state," he adds.

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NANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

eba first quarter earnings up

First quarter net earnings of the West German energy and petrochemical group were 30m (£24m), up 11.9 per cent from DM92m in the first quarter of 1979, the company said.

Despite "significantly narrow" profits in the mineral division and a weakening of sales in the chemical division, towards the end of the first quarter, Veba said it expected "generally satisfactory" for 1980.

International

In 1979 Veba had a group profit of DM471m, up 15.3 per cent from 1978.

Veba reported that first quarter group sales were up 25.6 per cent in DM10,200m.

Sales were up in all sectors,

owing to volume and price rises.

Cost increases in the period, is

energy particularly, have yet to be fully passed on.

Electricity sales were up only slightly on the same 1979 period in view of last year's exceptionally cold weather, it said.

Veba's long-term crude oil contract with British Petroleum annually continues unchanged. Agreement was reached however, on a cut in additional purchases from BP this year since Veba is able to secure supplies from other sources.

Mary Kathleen

Mary Kathleen Uranium, produced 156 tonnes of uranium in the three months to March 31, the company reported in Sydney.

This was equivalent to an annual rate of 623 tonnes compared with 632 tonnes produced in 1979.

W R Grace

W. R. Grace of New York yesterday reported first quarter net profits of \$65m, or \$1.41 a share, compared with \$57m and \$1.26 a year ago.

Sales rose to \$1,361m from \$1,165m.

Intel trading halted

The New York Stock Exchange yesterday halted trading in all Intel Corp issues until the company could its annual report for December 1979 to shareholders.

According to the NYSE, Intel said it expected the annual report to be available in early to mid-summer.

Asturienne

Compagnie Royale Asturienne des Mines said yesterday that its 2,440m francs (Belgian) of its 1979 loss of 2,600m francs was attributable to its Spanish operations.

The company is regrouping its Spanish activities and will propose to the annual meeting exceptional provisions to cover commitments in Spain, as well as depreciation.

American is a distributor and manufacturer of health care products, employing 28,500 people worldwide.

Accumulated losses are now 3,560m francs.

cord quarter for Amax

reported net earnings of \$3.3m and \$2.45 per share for the first quarter, compared with \$76.1m and 39 a share for the same a year ago.

st quarter net earnings, 39 per share, operating and sales are all and we are optimistic

Amax's prospects for

the three months to

31, net sales were

up 13 per cent from

for the first quarter of

net earnings were \$30.0m,

per cent from \$25.7m in

ings per share were 77

from 65 cents in 1979.

alth company buoyant

ics Hospital Supply

reached record first quar-

and earnings, Mr Karl

s, chairman and chief

re, announced yesterday,

re, were a record for any

the three months to

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Commodities

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FINANCIAL NEWS

Auditing standards published

Peter Wilson-Smith

The United Kingdom accountancy bodies have published the first batch of auditing standards covering the basic principles and practices which their members are expected to follow in carrying out audits.

The standards, which are cased by a comprehensive set of guidelines, were developed by the Auditing Practices Committee of the various country bodies and supersede the recommendations on auditing which the individual members have published over a number of years.

The booklet includes three standards covering the operational standard which auditors expect to follow when carrying out an audit; the manner in which should be identified referred to in the audit report; and the circumstances which might give rise to an

auditor's qualification and the terminology to be used to clarify the seriousness of the qualification.

In the first, the operational standard, auditors will be required among other things to satisfy themselves of the adequacy of a business' internal controls. Auditors are asked to place reliance on them. Auditors must also obtain audit evidence which is relevant and reliable enough for reasonable conclusions to be drawn.

The third standard, dealing with qualifications in auditors' reports says that the audit report should leave the reader in no doubt as to its meaning and implications.

The auditor should only qualify his report if he thinks the matter materially affects the view given by the financial statement. He then has four alternatives. Where the auditor is prevented by uncertainty

from forming an opinion on a matter he can modify his report with the words "subject to" or if the matter in question is fundamental to the accounts he can simply say he is unable to form an opinion.

If, however, the auditor disagrees with something he can, in his opinion, cause the accounts not to give a true and fair view, or where he disagrees with something which is not fundamental to the accounts he can modify his report with the word "except".

The standards, which are supported by all the United Kingdom accountancy bodies, came into force on January 1, 1980. They will be available from the Association of Certified Accountants and by the Association of Certified Accountants, come into force immediately.

Auditing Standards and Guidelines available from the Publications Department, PO Box 433, Chartered Accountants' Hall, Moorgate Place, London EC2P 2BJ, price £3.

London United profits slip

London United Investments is nine tenths of its money United States dollars, so 1979 not its year. It was also a year for insurance business mainstay, and turnover fell more than 23 per cent to £15.5m. Total profits slipped by 15 per cent to £3.3m. The fall would have been greater but for a cut in depreciation. The provision appears to fall from £260,000 to £600.

A group specializes in casualty underwriting. A range of capacity gave this less several good years, but 1979 new competition drove to uneconomic levels. So on United decided to turn some business.

Directors suspect that less in general is now along the bottom, and are signs of rates recovery. But a strong recovery expected until 1981. They want to attach too much importance to figures for the quarter of this year, but indicate that the group is in the line.

London United has a record of dividends covered very well by earnings, and it is able to afford the 69 per cent increase to 9p a share net 1.37p gross. Earnings fell from 22.62p to 20.44p from insurance losses in the United States and Europe. London United as a 10 per cent stake in 3/23 in the North Sea but is no activity there, or, at present, shares rested at 156p.

Business appointments

Rolls executive heads joint venture with Japanese

Mr Ashley Raeburn, vice

chairman of Rolls-Royce, has been appointed the first chairman of

Aerospace, the company's unit to

develop joint a new jet engi-

neering subsidiary for future 120-150 seat airliners.

The other directors are Mr Osamu Nagami and Mr Kanekichiro Inoue of Ishikawajima-Harima Heavy Industries. Mr Hiroshi Tsuchiya of Kansai Ikujiro of Mitsubishi Heavy Industries. Mr Kozo Hirata, managing director of the Society of Japanese Aerospace Companies, and from Rolls-Royce, Mr A. D. Jackson, Mr P. F. MacFarlane, Mr G. Newton and Mr R. H. Hobson.

Mr Brian Quantrell has joined B & Q (Metal) as director of property.

Mr David Horton has been appointed chief executive of Allerton.

Mr R. T. Carter has been made a director of Alpine Holdings and managing director of Alpine (Double-Glazing).

Mr J. D. Cornie, finance director of Rees International, has been appointed a non-executive director of Lepidus Industries (Holdings).

Mr Joseph S. Maitland and Raymond L. Bispinoloff have been appointed as additional non-executive directors of Minchord.

Mr Jack L. Wicker has been elected president of the British Chamber of Commerce France to succeed the late Mr. John Main, Ward. Mr D. H. Goodchild, chairman of Clifton Turner in Paris has been elected vice-president to join Mr John Tuby, director of Isoservices, also vice-president.

Mr S. T. P. Branch has been appointed to the board of L. M. Fiduciary & Company.

Sir William Mather and Mr A. F. Masters, respectively chairman and chief executive of CompAir, have joined the board of IC Gas. Mr H. J. Bragg, managing director of the Calor Group, also becomes

a director. Mr D. H. de Trafford, a deputy chairman of IC Gas, Mr P. V. Colebrook and Mr T. M. O'Rorke, both managing directors of IC Gas, join the board of CompAir.

Mr Robert Nevill has been appointed a director of Dill Metal and General Trade.

Mr Derek A. Fitzhugh has been made an executive director of Remploy. He will take over the duties of financial and planning director from Mr Charles Payne, who is retiring.

Mr G. C. Castle, formerly manager of organization planning, for Ford of Europe, has been made a director of Remploy at Midland International.

Mr David Steel has been appointed to the newly established International Energy Advisory Board.

Mr Gordon A. Cumming joined Grindlays Branks Insurance Brokers as director and managing director of its subsidiary Grindlays Branks Life & Pensions.

Mr H. M. Scopes has been appointed to the board of ICI Petrochemicals Division as raw materials and purchasing director.

Mr Barrie Heads and Mrs Joyce Grindlays, the board of Grindlays Television.

Mr R. H. Hitchin has been appointed production director and Mr E. E. Pike sales director of British Polar Engines.

Mr Geoffrey Halstead, formerly chairman, has become managing director of James B. Leach. Mr Leach becomes deputy chairman.

Mr Peter S. Wormald has been made a director of the IDC Group.

Mr Michael Green has become managing director of Frank Bristow.

Mr R. W. Wooller, a deputy group managing director of The International Paint Company, is to be the new president of the Paintmakers Association of Great Britain.

The gross total dividend is raised 13 per cent to 5.35p with a 3.825p final.

EIS pre-tax profits up 5 pc to £1.9m

By Philip Robinson

Electrical and Industrial Securities is expected to spend a further £1m this year on developing its aircraft and hydraulic valve offshoots which were big profit earners for the engineering group last year.

Those companies helped maintain pre-tax profits 5 per cent ahead at £1.5m on a turnover which rose 8 per cent to £23.2m.

A significant contribution

came from the aircraft operations of the C. F. Taylor group of companies, which the group bought in 1978, and the

hydraulic valve and precision

engineering subsidiary Kontest maintained its lead as the largest profit maker.

It was a difficult trading

year for Finch Watson, which

makes machinery for the plastic

footwear industry, but by

the year end the subsidiary was

breaking even.

Capital spending last year

reached a record £1.5m.

The interest on

debt helped to lift earnings at the pre-tax level and

the group's net profit margin

rose 58.58 per cent higher at £1.8m.

Mr Michael Walters, the

chairman, said: "Below the

line this is an artificial year.

The dramatic increase in post-

tax profits is the result of the

company's policy of investment

in new equipment and careful

stock control, taken with the

provision of the Finance Act

and the deferred taxation

accounting SSAP 15. We are

readily taking into account only the pre-tax rise when it comes

to dividends policy."

The gross total dividend is

raised 13 per cent to 5.35p with a 3.825p final.

Group ahead of forecast

London and Continental Advertising Holdings made profits of £216,000 last year, a 35 per cent improvement on the company's own profits forecast.

Comparative figures for 1978 are not provided because of the change in the nature of the business. The company was formerly Associated Advertising Holdings in succession to Mr J. S. Leach. Mr Leach becomes

deputy chairman.

Mr Peter S. Wormald has been made a director of the IDC Group.

Mr Michael Green has become managing director of Frank Bristow.

Mr R. W. Wooller, a deputy group managing director of The International Paint Company, is to be the new president of the Paintmakers Association of Great Britain.

The total sum payable was £1.221,000 as deposit, as to £366,300 as instalments on July 25 and November 25, 1977, and as to the balance £280,000 which included the £100,000 deposit for the final purchase moneys were duly released, but completion did not take place on the date fixed.

A letter sent the following day explained that Sheikha Maryam had not attended the completion of the contract because she was not in the United States.

It was agreed that Trafalgar House would grant Sheikha Maryam an undeliverance of flat 41 for 150 years less three days, with an initial rent of £1,500 a year and with provision for rent reviews. The consideration was to include not only the rent payable but also payment of £276,500, plus £100,000 for the return of the deposit and the keys. Sheikha Maryam's solicitors disputed that they were entitled to act in that way, and challenged the validity of the notice of completion.

In a letter of August 8, 1978, it was agreed that the vendor

should not proceed as quickly as was hoped, and vendors were

able to dislodge an attachment

certificate in September 1978.

Sheikha Maryam had the effect of making October 12, 1978, the date for completion. By that date the deposit and the first two instalments issued under condition 19 (4) (b) had been duly paid. After consideration of the notice of completion, the vendor was given time to the value of the deposit in July, 1978, was some £1,505,000 and in March, 1980, some £1,480,000. It therefore seemed probable that, if not obliged to grant undeliverances, the vendors

had been entitled to a reduction in the amount of the deposit.

The vendors did not accept that

the deposit had been paid and

possession given, the failure to

execute the counterpart under-

lease within the stipulated time

was not sufficiently fundamental

to enable the vendor to withdraw

from the agreement, and they

returned the banker's draft.

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to enable the vendor to withdraw

Salerooms and Antiques

Sotheby's

Monday 28th April at 11 am at Bond Street.
An uncoloured milk glass tea bottle, c. 1760, £25.

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London SW1Y 6QT. Tel: 01-839 9060
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London SW1

Tuesday, April 22 at 10.30 a.m.
OLD MASTER PRINTS. Catalogue 829.
Wednesday, April 23 at 10.30 a.m.
FINE ANTIQUITIES. Catalogue 823.
Wednesday, April 23 at 11 a.m.
TRAVEL AND NATURAL HISTORY BOOKS. Catalogue 824.
Wednesday, April 23 at 11 a.m.
FINE ENGLISH AND FOREIGN SILVER. Catalogue 825.
Thursday, April 24 at 10.30 a.m.
IMPORTANT ISLAMIC AND INDIAN MANUSCRIPTS
AND MINIATURES. Catalogue 823.

Thursday, April 24 at 11 a.m.
IMPORTANT ENGLISH FURNITURE, OBJECTS OF
ART AND CLOCKS. Catalogue 823.

Thursday, April 24 at 2.30 p.m.
FINE EASTERN TEXTILES, RUGS AND CARPETS.
Catalogue 823.

Friday, April 25 at 11 a.m.
BRITISH AND CONTINENTAL PICTURES OF THE
17TH AND 18TH CENTURIES. Catalogue 823.

Friday, April 25 at 11 a.m. and 2.30 p.m.
CHINESE CERAMICS AND WORKS OF ART. Catalogue 823.

Tuesday, April 29 at 10.30 a.m.
FINE SCULPTURE AND WORKS OF ART. Catalogue 825.

Tuesday, April 29 at 11 a.m.
CHRISTIE'S RUSTLE CITY WINE SALE AT BEAVER
HALL, E.C. Catalogue 823.

OVERSEAS SALES
IN AUSTRALIA
AT THE AGE GALLERY, 230 SPENCER STREET,
MELBOURNE.

Tuesday, Tuesday, April 22 at 10.30 a.m., 2.15 p.m. and
9.30 p.m.
AUSTRALIANA, MISCELLANEOUS LITERATURE,
MAPS AND PRINTS. Catalogue 823.

IN FRANCE
AT THE PALAZZO MASSIMO LANCELLOTTI
Tuesday, April 24 at 4 p.m.
FURNITURE, OBJECTS OF ART, CARPETS AND
CLOCKS. Catalogue 823.

Wednesday, April 30 at 4 p.m. and 9 p.m.
SILVER, JEWELS, GOLD WATCHES AND ICONS.
Catalogue 823.

Thursday, April 30 at 4 p.m.
ORIENTAL CERAMICS, PORCELAIN AND WORKS OF
ART. Catalogue 823.

All catalogues are post paid.
All sales subject to the conditions printed in the
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Tuesday 22nd April at 10.30 a.m.
CONTINENTAL POTTERY AND PORCELAIN
Cat. (20 illus.) £1.75

Tuesday 22nd April at 10.30 a.m. and 2 p.m.
ARMED AND MODERN FIREARMS AND
EDGE WEAPONS AND ISLAMIC AND
ORIENTAL WEAPONS AND ARMOUR
Cat. (67 illus.) £1.75

Tuesday 22nd April at 11 a.m.
ISLAMIC WORKS OF ART AND ANCIENT AND
ISLAMIC GLASS Cat. (149 illus.) £6.75

Tuesday 22nd April at 11 a.m. and 2.30 p.m.
FINE ORIENTAL MANUSCRIPTS,
MINIATURES AND QAJAR LACQUER
Cat. (86 illus.) £5

Wednesday 23rd April at 10.30 a.m.
at Sotheby's Belgravia
INEXPENSIVE WINES Cat. 50p

Wednesday 23rd April at 10.30 a.m.
FINE RUGS, CARPETS AND TEXTILES
Cat. (149 illus.) £5

Wednesday 23rd April at 2 p.m.
ISLAMIC COINS MAINLY IN GOLD AND
NUMISMATIC BOOKS Cat. (120 illus.) £1.50

Thursday 24th April at 10.30 a.m.
ENGLISH AND FOREIGN SILVER AND PLATE
Cat. (60 illus.) £1.75

Thursday 24th April at 10 a.m. and 2.30 p.m.
IMPORTANT JEWELS Cat. (59 illus.) £4

Friday 25th April at 11 a.m.
ENGLISH FURNITURE AND WORKS OF ART
Cat. (35 illus.) £1.75

Monday 28th April at 11 a.m.
IMPORTANT COLLECTION OF 17TH AND 18TH
CENTURY ENGLISH GLASS Cat. (65 illus.) £4.75

Monday 28th April at 2 p.m.
ICONs Cat. (19 illus.) £2.25

Tuesday 29th April at 10.30 a.m.
ORIENTAL CERAMICS Cat. (34 illus.) £1.75

Tuesday 29th April and following day at 11 a.m.
CONTINENTAL AUTOGRAPH LETTERS AND
MANUSCRIPTS Cat. (39 illus.) £6

Sotheby's Belgravia

19 Motcomb Street, London SW1X 8LB
Telephone: (01) 535 4311

Tuesday 22nd April at 11 a.m.
VICTORIAN PAINTINGS, DRAWINGS AND
WATERCOLOURS Cat. (11 illus.) 70p

Thursday 24th April at 10.30 a.m.
EUROPEAN CERAMICS Cat. (61 illus.) £1.75

Friday 25th April at 11 a.m.
AUTOMOBILIA, AERONAUTICA AND
NAUTICAL ITEMS Cat. (39 illus.) 70p

Tuesday 29th April at 11 a.m.
PAINTINGS, DRAWINGS AND
WATERCOLOURS Cat. (60 illus.) 90p

Cartes may be purchased at our salerooms or by post from 2 Alerminster Road, London SW11 8LG. Telephone: (01) 581 3131.

Other salerooms and offices: Chancery Lane (01) 525 2388; Bournemouth (0202) 204425 6; Cambridge (0223) 6-0245; Cheltenham (0242) 510500; Chester (0244) 515531; Dublin (01) 782661; Edinburgh (031) 226 2621; Harrogate (0423) 501466; Taunton (0823) 884411.

Montpelier Galleries, Montpelier Street,
Knightbridge, London SW7 1HH
Tel: 01-584 9161. Telex: 116477 Bonham G.

21 May, Montpelier Galleries, 10.30 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Tuesday 22nd May, 10.30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Wednesday 23rd April at 2 p.m.
PRINTS, BOOKS AND MANUSCRIPTS, 10.30 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Thursday 24th April at 10.30 a.m.
PORCELAIN AND WORKS OF ART
Cat. (11 illus.) 70p

Friday 25th April at 11 a.m.
19TH CENTURY PAINTINGS
and 18TH CENTURY DRAWINGS AND PRINTS
Cat. (11 illus.) 70p

Monday 28th April at 10.30 a.m.
FINE OLD MASTER PAINTINGS Cat. (5 illus.) £1.50

Wednesday 29th April at 10.30 a.m.
GOOD CARPETS
and 18TH CENTURY DRAWINGS AND PRINTS
Cat. (11 illus.) 70p

Thursday 30th April at 10.30 a.m.
FURNITURE AND WORKS OF ART Cat. (5 illus.) 70p

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